



INSPIRE

St John's Church
Ranmoor, Sheffield

June
2024
£1.00



On Thursday, 9th May St John's hosted a celebration of the Ascension and admissions into the Church of England for our Mission Area (with St Mary's Walkley and St Mark's Broomhill) and the wider Hallam Deanery. Bishop Richard Blackburn presided over the service of confirmation.

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
- From the Editor's Chair - 7
- Scissors, Paper, Stone - 8
- A Message from Peter Das - 11
- A Thank You from the Sullivans - 14
- "Greasy Chip Butty" – 16
- 36th Ranmoor Scout Group - 17
- Parish Registers - 17
- Church Calendar - 18
- Young People's Page - 20
- Restaurant Review: Fischers - 21
- Bridge Club - 24
- Rambling On - 26
- Quiz - 30
- Contacts - 31
- Groups and Activities - 32
- Contributing to Inspire - 34

Cover photo by Richard Walshaw: An Angel in the Sky? The Aurora Borealis seen from Owlbar

Large print versions of Inspire are available

Foreword



In these days after Pentecost, we are encouraged to consider what it means to be the church in 2024. The Holy Spirit continues to break down barriers and expand our vision of God's kingdom. St John's seeks to be an inclusive church and we are constantly growing in our understanding of what this means.

Thirty years ago, the Church of England responded to the promptings of the Holy Spirit by ordaining women to the priesthood for the first time. Our own Bridget Brooke was one of the first women to be ordained. The Diocese of Sheffield is marking this important anniversary with a special service at Sheffield Cathedral at 4pm on Saturday, 8th June and all are welcome:

www.sheffield.anglican.org/event/celebrating-30-years-of-women-priests/

Today, many in the Church feel that the Holy Spirit is prompting us to recognise and affirm the equality of LGBTQ+ people. June is Pride month and one of the ways in which we will recognise this at St John's is to highlight the contributions of LGBTQ+ composers in our services. Our Scissors Paper Stones programme encourages us to consider some other people whose contributions have been ignored - those who built our beautiful church. This month we have a concert to kick off a two-week art exhibition with some wonderful works by Margaret Bennett, inspired by the architecture of St John's. The exhibition runs from 15th to 30th June and church will be open Tuesday to Friday from 3-6pm, with refreshments at 4pm. I do hope you can come and have a look.

On Saturday, 22nd June, the Bishop of Sheffield is holding his biennial

garden party at Bishopscroft. As usual, members of St John's will be helping with this. This year, the focus will be on the homeless and those seeking asylum and funds raised will go towards The Archer Project and Assist.

To top off an exciting month, Peter Das, our stipendiary curate, will be ordained priest at Sheffield Cathedral on Saturday, 29th June. Peter's first service of Holy Communion will be at St John's at 10.30am on 30th June. You can read more about this in the following pages. Please pray for Peter as he continues to answer God's call and seeks the empowering of the Holy Spirit to be a priest in God's Church.

Matthew



C Paul Fox MPTA MIMIT

Piano Tuning ~ Repairs ~ Quality Used Pianos

35 Storth Park Fulwood Road
SHEFFIELD S10 3QH

ironframe269@gmail.com

www.sheffieldpianotuner.co.uk

Tel: 07889 759265



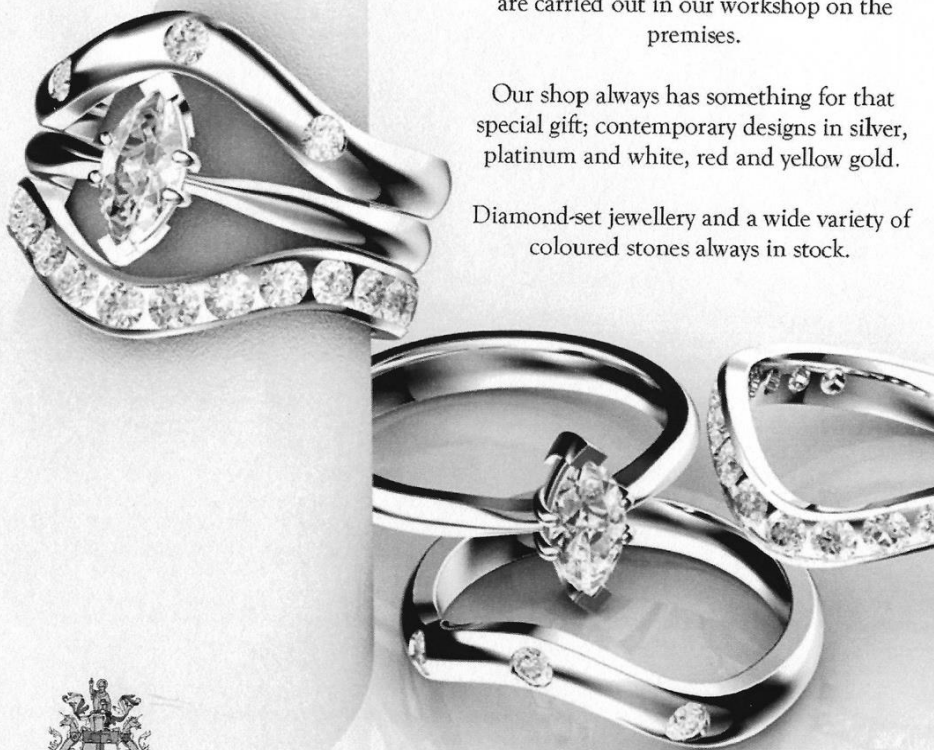
McAvoy & Beardsmore

Jewellers & Goldsmiths

From simple repairs to bespoke pieces, using traditional techniques and the latest Computer-Aided Design software, all tasks are carried out in our workshop on the premises.

Our shop always has something for that special gift; contemporary designs in silver, platinum and white, red and yellow gold.

Diamond-set jewellery and a wide variety of coloured stones always in stock.



A Member of
The National Association
of Goldsmiths

Tel: 0114 230 7078
210 Oakbrook Road, Nether Green, Sheffield S11 7ED
www.mcavoy-and-beardsmore.co.uk

From the Editor's Chair



So, the shorts are finally on! The weather seems to have turned for the better, (well, sort of). I've heard my first cuckoo of Spring and the swifts have returned to their nesting place under our eaves. I have a friend in Walkley who diligently marks down when "their" swifts return (always on the same day each year) and he was worried that they hadn't returned on the appointed day this year. They actually arrived a day late (after having travelled all the way from Africa!) and then he realised that this was a leap year! If only the buses on Service 51 were as reliable...

And still looking upwards, we see again how "Christ whose glory fills the skies". Unfortunately, I didn't manage to see the Aurora Borealis, despite wandering down our garden after midnight in my dressing gown after having been awakened from our slumbers via a phone call from our sons and told to go outside. I was well prepared the following evening and, like many others, was disappointed. However, we are all able to marvel at the photographs on social media and, especially, the ones on the front cover of this magazine and the back inside cover taken by one of our sons. I hope, like me, you can see an angel in the sky and give thanks to God "For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth, over and around us lies".

Philip Walshaw

Scissors Paper Stone

**Sacred Stones:
New paintings
help open up our
Church**

Margaret Bennett's paintings

We are delighted that Margaret Bennett has chosen St John's as the venue for her new exhibition. She is sharing her paintings of stone in our landscape and in our sacred buildings. She is also generously donating all profits from the sale of her paintings and of the cards she is designing, to the Inspire building project. Her paintings will help us save our endangered spire.

Scissors Paper Stone events

The Scissors Paper Stone team welcome you all to the two weeks of events connected with Margaret's Sacred Stones Exhibition. These events will enable us to open up the church to visitors from June 15th-29th. The details of our children's activities, concert and talks are available on the flyer which is included in this month's Inspire and available in church. We can send a digital copy of the flyer to anyone who is able to distribute it by email. Schools and local uniformed groups are being invited to bring children aged 7-9 to participate in our new Children's Trail, conceived by local historian, Dan Eaton.

Making their mark

I am particularly grateful to Mark Gregory, our church warden, and two members of our choir, James Stone and Brendan Sloan, who have combined to create a sound and light installation which brings our stone masons' marks down from the roof on to ground level.

The welcome team

If you would like to contribute to the welcome offered by our church during this fortnight, do get in touch with me or fill in the sign-up sheet in church. We are still looking for volunteers to bake biscuits or cake for visitors and visiting school children or simply to make visitors welcome. Guides will be available throughout the fortnight. Thank you to all of you who have made this project possible. I look forward to seeing you some time in the Sacred Stones fortnight.

Mary Grover

Saturday 15 June, 4pm

Exhibition opening and concert

Be among the first to see Margaret's paintings displayed in our magnificent church building, hear the artist introduce the exhibition and enjoy a concert celebrating the builders of the church.

4pm: church open with refreshments.

5.30pm: Margaret Bennett introduces the exhibition.

6pm: concert by the Choirs of St John's

FREE entry with refreshments for sale.

Tuesday 18 - Friday 28 June

Exhibition open

Tuesday - Friday 3-6pm

Drop in and visit the exhibition.
Refreshments available.



Saturday 29 June, 10am - 4pm

Open Church

Browse the exhibition or take a tour of the church. Refreshments available.

NEW Children's Trail - younger visitors will be able to explore the history of St John's using our new trail map.

2pm: Children's Mark Making Workshop - join us for this hands-on session, making your own clay mason's mark and green man sculpture.

Take home a piece of art - all the paintings are available for sale to raise funds for the Inspire Project. Those unsold by 2pm on 29th June will be available for sale at a 50% off.

These events are part of Scissors Paper Stone, a community history project exploring the origins of St John's Church in Ranmoor: the people who built it, the community which founded it and the people it served.

Over the next five years, the Scissors Paper Stone project will explore the history of St John's, sharing what we find through a blog and an events programme.

You can read the blog and find out more about the events on the website.

**Scissors
Paper
Stone**

www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

A Message from Peter Das, our Stipendiary Curate



I am delighted to share with you that I will be ordained priest on 29th June at 4 pm by Bishop Pete in Sheffield Cathedral. This is going to be a momentous event in my life because my priesting would confirm years of hard work and my faithful response to God's call. Describing God's call to priesthood can be a daunting exercise because it is often inexplicable. Not many of us receive angelic salutation or witness divine revelation like those from the scriptural narratives. Nevertheless, one can express a certain feeling of love for God and unfathomable trust in him

which comes from the depth of heart and those around may witness signs and traits which are often described as 'priestly' or 'godly'. However, nurturing the call to ordained ministry is as crucial as hearing that call at the first instance because comprehending one's calling may require clarity, encouragement, and direction.

I have always drawn inspiration from the Old Testament narrative of Abraham's call in my personal journey throughout the discernment. Abraham was a godly man who heard God's call and went wherever his love for God took him, even to the promised land. Abraham's calling was that of a journey in which the journey was as crucial as the destination. He was ordained by God to build a nation upon which the divine providence was promised. The creation of this nation was evidently the destination of his journey but the journey itself was the testimony of his unwavering faith in God and his calling. Abraham's narrative teaches us to be responsive to God's call and thereby following his lead until we reach where we are called to be. In this exercise, we all participate in one's journey of call as we are all called to contribute towards the building of God's kingdom on earth. This is why some of us are called to the Holy Order, whereas most of us exercise our *universal priesthood of all believers* as Peter and Paul reminds us in their epistles. Responding to God's call to ordained ministry at times can be

challenging. This is because life in ordained ministry demands constant learning and unlearning. During this cycle of learning and unlearning, we are invited to witness God's marvellous work in our lives and also the transformative power which moves us from places of uncertainty to clarity about ourselves, the community we serve, and the larger world in which we live.

Likewise, preparations for ordination are never easy and I have found that even after serving for a year as a deacon, I'm quite nervous to envision the life as a priest to which I'm committing at an early age. Being a clergyman at our time can be challenging as life inside the Church does not easily relate to the rapidly changing world. Those of us who are, in fact, ordained may find ourselves constantly striving to knit an integrated self out of the disparity that exists between the world of the Church and the world of post-modernity. However, as I prepare for my priesting, I look up to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the *Theotokos*, whose monumental faith and perfect submission to God's radical plan guided her through the trials and uncertainties of her personal calling. Hers was the calling to bear the light of the world, Jesus. In her, as John Henry Newman puts it, the perfect model of being the Church is championed: her teachable response to God's call, her resilience in nurturing our blessed Lord, and also her witness to the glorious fire of the Pentecost made the message of Christ known to the entire world.

One of the joys of being ordained priest is to be able to exercise the fullness of the sacramental ministry of the Church which includes presiding at the eucharist, officiating and solemnising matrimony, hearing confessions, and anointing. These are in conjunction with the other sacramental offices of the Church such as baptisms and funerals which I have already begun to exercise as a deacon. These sacramental offices are crucial in strengthening our personal relationship with God, and, thereby, fostering our commitment to the oneness of the Church which is sometimes described as *Catholic*.

My first eucharist, commonly called the *First Mass* in my tradition, will mark the beginning of my priestly ministry here among you. Matthew and I have worked carefully towards designing the liturgy of my first

eucharist which respects the tradition of our church but also allows me the space to incorporate aspects of my own church tradition such as the sung liturgy. In addition, our choir will be singing Palestrina's *Tu es Petrus* as the Introit, Elgar's *Ave Verum* during the anthem, and Byrd's *Mass for the Four Voices* for the ordinary which includes the *Gloria, Sanctus & Benedictus*, and the *Agnus Dei*. Although my family would not be able to attend the service in person, I am looking forward to welcoming friends, especially, Dr Nicholas Buxton from St Antony's Priory, Durham, who will preach the sermon.

May I, thus, request you to pray for me as I travel another mile in my journey of God's calling as I continue to serve as your curate. Please kindly get in touch with Claire Webber if you would like to attend my priesting at Sheffield Cathedral on 29th June at 4 pm, and I look forward to seeing you at my first eucharist on 30th June at 10.30 am.

Gaudete in domino semper,
Peter

*Of your charity,
pray for those to be ordained this Petertide, included amongst them:*

PETER PATHIKRIT DAS

to be ordained Priest

by

PETER JONATHAN, Lord Bishop of Sheffield

in his Cathedral Church of Ss. Peter & Paul, Sheffield

on the 29 June, 2024, at 4.00 pm.

Peter will preside at the Holy Eucharist for the first time on Sunday, 30 June, at 10.30 am, observing the solemnity of Ss. Peter & Paul in the parish church of S. John the Evangelist, Ranmoor.

Pray too for The Rev'd Canon Dr Matthew Rhodes and the parishioners of S. John the Evangelist, Ranmoor, amongst whom Peter will continue to serve his title post.

EADON LOCKWOOD & RIDDLE

ESTD 1840



New Year, New Home?

Are you living in *S10* or *S11* and want to sell your home? Perhaps you want to let out your property? Or maybe you're looking for your next forever home?

Our negotiators and valuation experts have a wealth of local knowledge in these areas, and alongside our traditional values and excellent customer service - we're the agent for you!

Did you know that we have been awarded the Gold Award in the Best Estate Agent Guide 2023!

Approximately 25,000 estate and letting agencies have been assessed on their marketing, results and customer service in order to differentiate the best agencies in the UK.

Only 5% estate and letting agencies in the UK have been awarded the 'EXCEPTIONAL' status (that's us!). So why not call one of our branches now to speak to a member of our team?



SHEFFIELD

0114 268 3388
sheffield@elr.co.uk

BAKEWELL

01629 700699
bakewell@elr.co.uk

ROTHERHAM

01709 917676
wickersley@elr.co.uk

HATHERSAGE

01433 651888
hathersage@elr.co.uk

LETTINGS

0114 268 9900
lettings@elr.co.uk

Thank You for Walking with Us **Julian and Veronica Sullivan**

Dear friends,

Veronica and I wanted to give you all a big hug and heartfelt “Thank You” for the love and support you have shown us over the last few months. In December, we wrote to our family: “Now and again, life throws us out of gear in ways we couldn’t have seen coming. After investigation on some minor issue, Veronica has been given a diagnosis of oesophageal cancer, in an early stage, with no spread as far as we can tell. We can now say with reasonable clarity, that chemo will start mid-December and surgery likely follow after a gap in late March. Another dose of chemo and lengthy convalescence completes the trial. Our medical team is positive and hopeful of a good outcome, given the patients fitness and the early discovery, but there are no guarantees. I am gearing up to be chief cook, bottle washer, prime carer and communications director.

The biggest surprise of all was the arrival of an exercise bike, which J put together with hardly any naughty words and no left overs. High intensity training is the best way to prepare a person for the rigours of chemo and surgery. You will know that “training” is not really our thing, but we are slowly learning to dance to new music. Veronica is in Lycra and my stopwatch is on standby! We have enjoyed finding music to spur V on in her efforts. At 4 minutes 6 seconds, John Adams’ “A short ride in a fast machine” fits the bill admirably with Rimsky Korsakov’s Flight of the Bumble Bee a close second, pushing Ben Hur’s Chariot Race, into bronze!

Morale is high and we are not so much optimistic as hopeful for the future, as we deal with unadorned reality. We will be grateful for your prayers as we dance to music not of our choosing. As we all know well, this is the time of life when stuff happens, but we will try to ride each wave when it comes - with thanks to 🍱 Hokusai 🍱. We draw strength from the stained glass at our previous parish, St Mary’s Bramall Lane, based on the spirited words of Psalm 84: “How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts ... my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living



God. "Happy are those whose strength is in you ... as they go through the valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs." (Baca - desert place)" In May we wrote: "We have had a strong sense of being held and mysteriously blessed throughout this extraordinary time. The journey continues and Veronica is doing well. We saw our surgeon 6

weeks on from surgery to hear results from analysis of the tumour. We were astonished to hear that the chemo had apparently cleared the board leaving no trace of the cancer, apart from some dead cancer cells in some removed lymph nodes. This gave us considerable relief and renewed confidence as V goes from strength to strength. She is now driving, walking into town and going into shops again - much easier to track around the aisles with her bright green or pink beany hat!

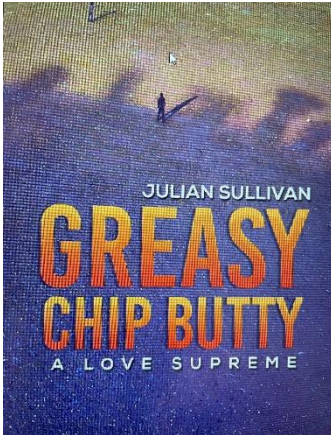
The final hurdle was a visit to our oncologist to discuss the question of whether or not to continue chemotherapy. The first series worked so well it seemed possible that another round would be unnecessary and so it proved! We can never be 100% certain that it will not return, as cancer is a wily beast, but we can now face the future with hope. Read my lips: "No more Chemo!" We are profoundly thankful to have reached this outcome, as our prayer has always been "Into your hands O Lord, we commit our spirit." Convalescence will continue slowly and steadily as hopefully, side effects from the chemo wear off. Not all will disappear but we can learn to live with them, while pursuing therapies to make them more bearable. Things will be very different in a year.

In the meantime, we have been overwhelmed by all who have so kindly and thoughtfully prayed, sent cards, flowers, books (even a jigsaw!) head coverings, chocolates, hats and cosmetics. Those who have prepared and delivered meals in the time after the operation have blessed us more than they know. The NHS is not without its difficulties, but at the sharp end, it is unbeatable. We have seen dedicated, health professionals at

every level, working towards this outcome with integrity, focus, kindness and love. We send our love and heartfelt thanks, following an outcome beyond all we could ask or imagine. Thanks be to God!

“Greasy Chip Butty”

by Julian Sullivan



May I give a brief mention of my forthcoming book, “Greasy Chip Butty” published on Friday 24th May, broadly about life and faith in the urban parish of St Mary’s Bramall Lane. Now retired, I served there, from 1990 - 2016. I found myself in a very privileged position, serving a diverse, eclectic urban community, one of the best kept secrets in the City of Sheffield. In so doing I encountered humanity in all its remarkable forms which I found deeply affecting. I felt moved to write about my

experiences, inspired by the people I knew, learned from and came to love, rather than let it all go, unrecorded and unsung. The book has been described as kaleidoscopic, and multi layered. It is the story of an inner city community rapidly changing in the period from the end of the second war, almost up to the arrival of Covid showing the positive role played by St Mary’s in the social, economic and spiritual regeneration of a neighbourhood. The book draws on a rich heritage, showing how faith has the power to change and enrich lives for the better. I show how art and music have encouraged me to approach the challenges of life and faith with a sense of playfulness, adventure and risk taking, to bring about change at different levels. Through a series of intervals or ‘entr’actes’ based on powerful paintings, I explain how biblical stories and characters gave us courage to punch well above our weight in pursuit of our goal to bring about change.

The book goes live on Friday 24th and I understand from my publishers that it will be immediately available on Amazon and ebooks. Hard copies will follow later for a book launch.

36th Ranmoor Scout Group

I am pleased that I have now managed to get all sections of the 36th Ranmoor Scout group back to some normality since Covid, with the various appeals for leaders eventually being successful. We suffered badly due to Covid, with the Scout section losing all its leaders, and not restarting until recently. Last year, the Cubs section lost its leaders and the Beaver section leader retired from Beavers after several years of dedicated service.

We have now a new team for Scouts led by Simon Maltby. The Cubs have an entirely new team of parents who have committed to be assistant leaders led by a busy mum Nea Maycock and restarted on 24th April. The Beavers team has been increased by a number of parents who have committed to being assistant leaders led by a new leader Heidi Adcock. All these new leaders have passed their Basic Disclosure Checks and started their training. I am sure that all parents will join me in thanking the parents who stepped forward so that a scouting experience can be continued to be given to both boys and girls in our area.

I am also pleased to say that the new extension and modern toilet facilities which were completed just before Covid have made the accessibility for all much easier, which is borne out by more senior groups using our headquarters on Benty Lane. Easy access for children's buggies and wheelchairs and not forgetting the modern kitchen facilities mean that the HQ is available for use by the wider community and not just the Scout groups.

Michael Holmes

Parish Registers: June 2024

Please pray for Guy Brammar and Jane Grainger who were married recently at St Johns.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, RANMOOR

CALENDAR – JUNE 2024

Saturday 1st June

12.30pm Marriage Blessing of Rowena and Navid

Sunday 2nd June – 1st Sunday after Trinity

10.30am All Age Service

6.30pm BCP Communion

Wednesday 5th June

11.30am Holy Communion in the Parish Centre

12.30pm Lunch Club

5.30pm Choral Evensong with Choristers

Sunday 9th June – 2nd Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Parish Communion

4.30pm Recital: Annie Rieden (soprano), Eleanor Jarvis (soprano) and Philip Collin (piano)

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday 12th June

11.30am Holy Communion in the Parish Centre

10-12.30pm Foodbank Collection from the Church Drive

12.30pm Lunch Club

5.30pm Evening Prayer

Saturday 15th June to Saturday 30th June

Sacred Stones Exhibition

Local artist Margaret Bennett's paintings in response to our Church Architecture.

Church open Tuesday to Friday 3-6pm with refreshments at 4pm

Saturday 15th June – Sacred Stones

Opening and Concert

2pm The History of the first Church, by Mary Grover

4pm-7pm Church open with Refreshments

5.30pm Margaret Bennet introduces her exhibition

6pm-7pm Concert by the Choirs of St John's Celebrating the builders of our Church.

Sunday 16th June– 3rd Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Parish Communion

6.30pm Evensong

Monday 17th June

7.30pm PCC meets in the annexe

Wednesday 19th June

11.30am Holy Communion in the Parish Centre

12.30pm Lunch Club

5.30pm Choral Evensong with adult choir

Saturday 22nd June

2pm-5pm Bishop of Sheffield's Garden Party

7.30pm Dore Male Voice Choir

Sunday 23rd June - 4th Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Parish Communion

4pm Recital – Senior Choristers and Choral Scholars of St John's

6.30pm Choral Evensong with the adult choir

Monday 24th June

7.30pm Sanctuary in the side chapel

Wednesday 26th June

11.30am Holy Communion in the Parish Centre

10-12.30pm Foodbank Collection from the Church Drive

12.30pm Lunch Club

5.30pm Evening Prayer

Saturday 29th June

4pm Rev'd Peter Pathikrit Das Ordination taking place at Sheffield Cathedral

Sunday 30th June – Ss. Peter and Paul, Apostles

10.30am Parish Communion – Peter will preside at the Eucharist for the first time

12.45pm Sunday Social and Ordination Lunch for Rev'd Peter Das

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Other services during the week:

Holy Communion: Every Wednesday at 11.30am in the Parish Centre

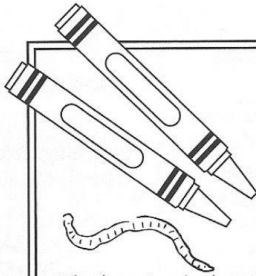
Choral Evensong: Evensong Wednesdays at 5.30 pm (Choral Evensong every other week in term time, see Music List for details)

Morning Prayer: Monday to Saturday 9am in Church and on ZOOM

Footsteps: A Sunday school children's group that meets during the Sunday morning service. Children are welcome at all of our services.

Young People's Page

This month's main quiz on page 30 is about bugs and insects, so here's a quiz about bugs for younger people and a chance to win some sweets. Send your completed entry to me (see address on page 30), with the help of an adult if needed, and you could be a winner!



Just for **KIDS**

Bugs in the Bible



Whether at a picnic, on the beach or playing outdoors, it seems like we're always joined by uninvited guests – bugs!

Bugs and other little creatures are mentioned in the Bible.



*Fill in the blanks with the little creatures mentioned in each verse.
Circle them in the puzzle below.*

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Proverbs 6:6 _____ | Exodus 16:20 _____ |
| Psalms 78:45 _____ | 1 Sam. 24:14 _____ |
| Matt. 23:24 _____ | Isaiah 50:9 _____ |
| Judges 14:8 _____ | Isaiah 59:5 _____ |
| Acts 12:23 _____ | Leviticus 11:22 _____ |
| Leviticus 11:22 _____ | Leviticus 11:22 _____ |
| Leviticus 11:22 _____ | |
| Deuteronomy 7:20 _____ | |



M	O	T	H	S	G	N	A	T	B	H
A	N	T	A	L	L	C	H	P	E	O
G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
G	F	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	S	N
O	L	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	E
T	E	C	L	O	C	U	S	T	D	T
S	A	E	F	K	A	T	Y	D	I	D
G	F	L	I	E	S	W	O	R	M	S

Restaurant Review: Fischers, Baslow Hall, Calver Road, Baslow



Writing this review is proving to be really difficult. For many years, Fischer's has been my favourite "go to" venue for a "posh" meal or, on the very rare occasion, an evening meal and overnight stay in one of the extremely charming and comfortable bedrooms which this very handsome establishment makes available - at a pretty hefty price! Not cheap, but if you can grit your teeth and ignore the financial outlay it is a very pleasant event. So why is writing this review difficult when all the above rhetoric reads as a paean of unexpurgated praise? Well, to coin a well-worn cliché "A restaurant is only as good as its last meal"

The Meal (part one)

I think a mention of some aspects of the history relating to Baslow Hall's ownership may be apposite at this stage, beginning with the purchase of the Hall in 1988 by the Fischer family Max and Susan. Sadly, soon after purchase the place suffered a major fire, but like a phoenix, it rose from the flames, and for many years dominated the local fine-dining scene.

A locally produced chef, Rupert Rowley, became part of the establishment as a sous chef to Max before moving on to pastures new. No idea who actually owns the establishment now, but a loss of its treasured Michelin star in 2019 suggested perhaps the status was waning somewhat. Well, the proof of the pudding and all that is literally in the eating. This rather trite philosophy was put to the test a couple of weeks ago when son, on a flying visit from Australia, offered to take the parents (G and myself for those not following this diatribe very closely) to Fischer's for a (hopefully) celebratory lunch.

The Lunch (part two)

Everything started well. No problems with the booking. Sunny day which, in addition to the usual scenic drive from Sheffield, created a pretty cheerful atmosphere. An ebullient welcome on arrival with an equally ebullient ush (is "ush actually a verb?) towards the lounge, which offered the customary comfortable sofas, squidgy cushioned chairs and a plethora of stylish tables suitable for alcohol - containing glasses or whatever. Perhaps the "ebullient" bit is a tad overstated, politely enthusiastic would be more appropriate. I suppose if you are paying "Big Bucks" (classic American slang for the uninitiated) for a meal, a bit of exuberance from the attending staff is probably in order.

Well so far so good. Preliminary drinks ordered and gently consumed whilst perusing the stylish Fischer lunch menu. During this not unpleasant exercise the maître d' (or perhaps some variant on the smart country hotel staff) arrived with a dish of amuse bouche. These provided a rather underwhelming very small mouthful of lamb crumpet which presented as a minute crumpet base surmounted by a modest portion of shredded lamb. This offering was accompanied by another minute something. Sadly, I have no memory of its composition - or even its modest presence! Possibly quite tasty in its fleeting contact with the tongue's expectant taste buds - but unfortunately a crumb is just a crumb.

Unfortunately, the rest of the meal continued in an ever-increasing downward spiral. Cornish Seabass Ceviche accompanied by avocado and sweet potato (£19.00) was visually attractive, but, in reality, was a

modest display of a minute mouthful of fish, plus a couple of attractively coloured “splodges” to be consumed either with a spoon, or as a “dip” via a portion of the small brioche style bread which also adorned the table. The next course of Cornish Cod with artichoke, lemon peel and smoked roe (a mind blowing £33.00!) followed the underwhelming format of the previous offering. A microscopic single mouthful of fish plus the need for further use of the ever-diminishing bread in order to taste the remaining elements on the plate.

A final course of Salted Caramel Tart replete with Madeira clotted cream (£14.00) was very tasty, but again proved to be extremely minimal in content. Coffee taken in the lounge was good, although the “complementary” petit fours from years gone by no longer figured in the equation. On the plus side, a bottle of a very decent French white Burgundy was well appreciated – as was the excellent coffee.

Verdict

How the mighty have fallen! In the days of Max Fischer (and Rupert Rowley) working the kitchen, Fischer’s was a serious culinary force both locally and nationally. Sadly, the current dining scene is a feeble pastiche of yesteryear where a “decorative” effect seems more important than the actual food. A bowl of chips would have gone down pretty well with the “main” courses. Or even more bread!

Roy Stanley



Advertise in St John’s Ranmoor monthly magazine—Inspire

Have you considered advertising in Inspire the St John’s Ranmoor magazine?

Inspire is an A5 size publication published 10 times each year read widely in our local area.

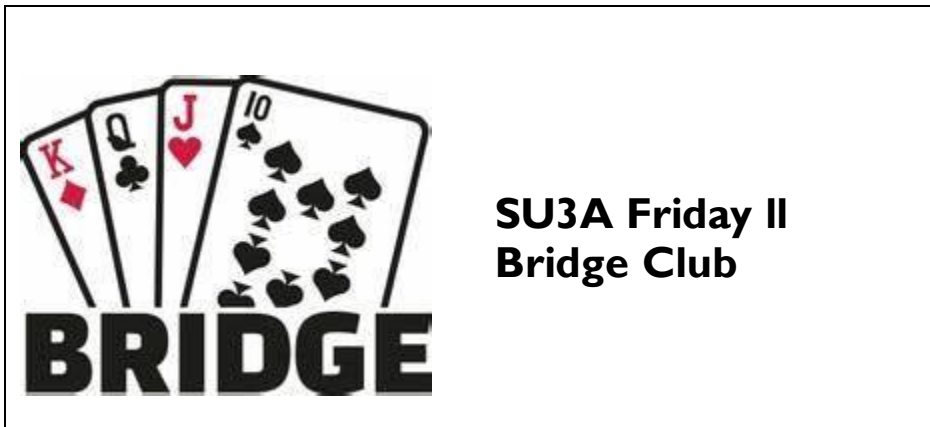
Over 300 copies are distributed monthly around the Ranmoor Parish and beyond and the magazine is emailed to over 500 people per month!

Advertising spaces can be quarter, half or full page. Discount for Parish Centre Users.

If you start part way through the year the rate would be reduced pro rata.

For further details please contact Peter Marrison

wpmarrison@btinternet.com or on 07581 888068.



Playing bridge can have an unexpected consequence. My grandparents and father played, and I was taught to play, as a boy. When working in United Steels' Operational Research Department, I joined the Bridge Club. One of the staff, from Hathersage, brought her friend, Erica, to the Club. The rest is history! Erica drew the line at my suggestion of naming, Libby, our first born 'Bridget'.

As a reader of Inspire, you will be aware of the excellent facilities at the Parish Centre. It's an ideal venue for our Bridge Club. Together with the club that meets on Wednesday evenings, it makes a significant contribution to the Centre's finances.

Before the Pandemic we had sufficient members to fill the Garden Room with seven full tables. Now it's rare that we achieve five full tables. It would be more satisfactory if we could recruit more members. There is always a balance between playing bridge seriously and the over-serious. We aim to achieve a friendly atmosphere and allow the odd mistake to be corrected. That said, most of us like to win.

You may recognise this 'James Bond' deal, shown on the following page. Can you see how South can bid 7 Clubs and make a Grand Slam? No, this is not set as a test for Club membership. Many of our members would struggle if this were the case.

You can find the solution on page 28

♠ 10 9 8 7				
♥ 6 5 4 3				
♦ -				
♣ 7 6 5 3 2				
♠ 6 5 4 3 2			♠ A K Q	
♥ 10 9 8 7 2	N		J	
♦ J 10 9		W	E	♥ A K Q
♣ -	S		♦ J	
				♠ A K
				♣ K J 9
♠ -				
♥ -				
♦ Q 8 7 6 5 4 3 2				
♣ A Q 10 8 4				

We welcome new members who are beyond the 'Beginners' Stage'. We can normally find them partners. Play is from 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm on Friday afternoons. There is a quarterly fee of £22 for 11 Fridays. Occasional players pay a table fee of £3. Contact me, Brian Jeremiah, on 0114 230 7250 or b.jeremiah@btinternet.com.

John Heath & Sons

AN INDEPENDENT FAMILY BUSINESS

Sometime.....

You will probably have the responsibility of making funeral arrangements. No one looks forward to this responsibility, but the death of a family member or a friend brings with it an obligation that must be met. These are people who can help you meet this responsibility. We have been helping people combine the different aspects of a funeral service for over one hundred and thirty five years.

**Premises at Earsham Street | Ecclesall Road | Stannington | Meadowhead
Crookes | Ecclesfield | Deepcar | Penistone | Hollisend | Eckington**

Day or Night (0114) 272 22 22



www.JohnHeath.co.uk

Pre-paid Funeral Plan Service available



By using this advertisement to make families aware of our services, it is inevitable that we reach homes in which there is illness or sorrow. If this is so please accept our sincere apologies.

Rambling On

with Philip Walshaw



It was Bank Holiday Monday and a reasonable day weather wise, although the sun was soon to go behind the clouds. Susan fancied a change from potting up her plants for the Christian Aid Plant Sale, so we thought we would go a walk and take a picnic. But where, she asked, might we go to avoid the crowds? My response was “Boot’s Folly” from Rod Side. “Where?”, you might ask. Here’s how we did it.

We drove along the A57 Manchester Road up towards Moscar and turned right onto Rod Side just after the Dog Boarding Kennels. When the road flattens out, after a couple of sharp bends, you can find a parking space.

Follow the wide farm track in the direction of Ladybower until reach a footpath sign on the right. Climb over the stile and follow the path through the bog grass until it descends to a road and our objective comes into view. We had already heard and seen lapwings and curlews but we were surprised to hear our first cuckoo of Spring. Climb over another stile and follow the road to your right until you reach the imposing gates of Sugworth Hall.



The footpath is to the left of the gate and takes you down the long drive and diverts you to the right of the Hall, along the periphery of the private grounds. The Hall dates back to 1535 and through the years was in the possession of the Firth and Tozer families, of the Firth Brown and Steel, Peech and Tozer steel manufacturers. Early in the 20th century, it became the home of civil engineer Charles Boot, the son of Henry Boot, and he became the Chairman of Henry Boot Ltd in 1921. Boot's wife, the splendidly named Bertha Boot, died at Sugworth Hall after a long

illness in 1926, giving rise to speculation that an isolated tower, Boot's Folly, built in 1927, about 330 yards to the north, was constructed so that he could see the graveyard at High Bradfield where she was buried.

Another story suggests that Boot's Folly was built to provide work for Sugworth Hall's workmen during the Depression, but more likely it was built as an observation tower for Boot and his guests to view surrounding countryside.

During the 1980s and 1990s some of Sugworth Hall's outbuildings were converted to residential use. In 2020, the Grade II listed country house was up for sale at the



bargain price of £1.5 million. I don't know who the new owners are, but I do know that a lot of interior and exterior work has, and still is, being carried out, as can be observed from the path, which you follow through some rhododendrons. On reaching a kissing gate, you can do whatever takes your fancy and then walk across the open fields to Boot's Folly.

The tower is now derelict and has sadly lost its wood panelled interior and fittings - including a spiral staircase - since a cow managed to climb it and get stuck in the tower! It is obviously a favoured shelter for the sheep judging by the droppings on the ground and the accompanying smell. We found a grassy hummock away from the aroma for our picnic where we could look over Agden and Dale Dyke dams and across to the busy activity around the Strines.

It was just about warm enough for a picnic, but it wasn't long before we were retracing our steps back to the Hall gates. Turning right, our walk then took us along the quiet country road to a point just before the junction with the Strines road. Follow the path to the left up a wide track apparently favoured by off-roaders. At the top, the path veers right and look out for the track to the left about half way down. This leads you through the farm and eventually back to where we started from - some 10,000+ steps and 3 miles/hours later, as I was reminded by a flagging wife!

Solution to the Bridge poser: 13 Tricks for Grand Slam in Clubs

- 1** West leads the Jack of Diamonds, trumped in Dummy, East loses either the Ace or King.
- 2** A Trump from Dummy through East's K, J or 9 is covered and taken by A Q or 10.
- 3** South leads a small Diamond to be trumped in Dummy and East loses second Diamond.
- 4** A Trump from Dummy though East, for the second time, is won by South as before.
- 5** East is left with one Trump which is taken by South regardless of the order played by East.
- 6=11** Starting with the Queen, South runs 6 more tricks in Diamonds.
- 12-13** and concludes with the 2 remaining Trump tricks.

Fast and honest quotations for...

Quality Windows, Doors, Porches,
Conservatories, Orangeries, Stained
Glass, Fascias, Soffits & Guttering



...from Sheffield Window Centre - the leading local company

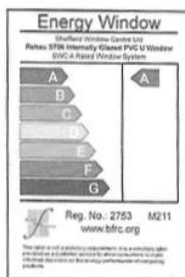
If you're thinking about getting a quote but don't want any sales pressure, look no further than Sheffield Window Centre

- No Pressure Sales - We quote in writing, by post, after a brief visit and never use pressure to sell our products - we wait for you to decide.
- Save money on your heating bills by installing our energy efficient windows.
- We are a reputable family business, established in 1975.
- SWC manufacture virtually everything we install here in Sheffield.
- All of our installations are guaranteed for 10 years.
- During installation our fitters clean up thoroughly at the end of each day.
- 70% of our new business is from customer recommendations.

For a FREE, No Obligation Quotation call us on

0114 281 3333

And remember... Sheffield Window Centre operates a
COMPLETELY pressure free service, so give us a try!



Call us on: **0114 281 3333**

www.sheffield-window-centre.co.uk



Showrooms at: 7 Rockingham Street, Sheffield, S1 4EA & 216/218 Oakbrook Road, Sheffield, S11 7ED

Quiz: Bugs and Insects

compiled by Philip Walshaw



The answers to the clues below are bugs and insects. A prize awaits the person who submits the most correct answers. A bonus point will be awarded for identifying the bug featured. In the event of a tie, a winner will be chosen by a lucky draw. Send your entry by email to jpwalshaw@gmail.com or by post to 19 Cairns Road, S10 5NA to

reach me by Wednesday, 20th June, 2024.

1. Male fish? (9)
2. Female flier? (8)
3. Nosey insect (6)
4. Container for weed? (11)
5. Make alterations to the real coat... (13)
6. and grows into a tall parent (5,4,4)
7. Discovered in north Ripon area (5)
8. Try flute arrangement in B (9)
9. Smashed yams in parting (7,6)
10. Let gates be altered for this insect. (4,6)
11. Do ten parks to find this aquatic insect... (4,6)
12. ...and find its rejuvenated brown mate at a regatta? (5,7)
13. Trail around with damaged parcel (11)
14. Flagon broken in dry surroundings (9)
15. Fabric placed in front of stage side (8)

Answers to May Quiz: 1. Bingham (featured) 2. Greenoak 3. Norfolk 4. Flockton 5. Endcliffe 6. Hollinsend 7. Colley 8. Jaunty 9. Millhouses 10. Busk Meadow 11. Chelsea 12. Botanical 13. Ponderosa 14. Ecclesall 15. Ladies Spring

Entries were received from: Janet and Malcolm Anker, Ruth Cheshire, Pam and Ian Dall, Michael and Rosemary Hannon, Alan and Pauline Heath, John and Brenda Staniforth and Barbara and Peter Wozencroft.

The winners were Janet and Malcolm Anker, who receive a box of chocolates.

Contacts at St John the Evangelist, Ranmoor

Vicar: Revd Canon Dr Matthew Rhodes (07754 068391)
matthew.rhodes@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Assistant Curates: Revd Alison Wragg (0114 2301199)
alison.wragg@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk
Revd Peter Das (07824 067966)
peter.das@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Lay minister: Janet Noble (Children's Minister)
0114 2301199 (Church Office)
footsteps@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Children and Families Worker:
Claire Eaton
0114 2301199 (Church Office)
claire.eaton@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mark Gregory and Pauline Heath
churchwardens@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Church and Parish Centre Office:
5 Ranmoor Park Road, Sheffield S10 3GX
Opening Hours: 9.30am-2.30pm (Mon-Wed)

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

Finance and Gift Aid Officer:
Mark Dakin (0114 2301199)
finance@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Treasurer: David Booker (07773 821125)
treasurer@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Safeguarding: safeguarding@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Church Groups and Activities

Children and Young People:

Footsteps (for children up to Y6)

Janet Noble 0114 2301199

footsteps@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

REACH (for young people Y7 and up)

Revd Canon Dr Matthew Rhodes

07754 068391

matthew.rhodes@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Study Group:

Sandra Green

0114 2309180

biblestudy@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Flower arranging:

Sandra Green and Jackie Lowe

0114 2303999

flowers@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Music:

Philip Collin, Director of Music

philip.collin@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

or music@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

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

Ranmoor Guides:

ranmoorguides@gmail.com

Ranmoor Brownies:

Jenny Woodhouse -

ranmoorbrownies@gmail.com

36th Ranmoor Group Scout Leader and
general enquires including Hall Hire
at Benty Lane:

Michael Holmes 07802 860556

Michaelholmes1@gmail.com

Beavers (6 to 8 yrs) meet Mon night:

Heidi Adcock heidi.adcock@me.com

Cubs (8 to 10.5 yrs) meet Wed night:

Nea Maycock nea@ranmoorscouts.com

Scouts (10.5 to 14 yrs) meet Tues night:

Simon Maltby

simon@ranmoor-scouts.com

District Explorers (14 to 18 yrs)

meet Friday night:

Liam R. McManus

lrmacmanus@sheffield.ac.uk

Bents Green Nurseries

*Spring is on its way!
Early season bedding-
fruit bushes, trees*

H.T.A. Gift Vouchers Sold and Redeemed

Tel: 230 4101

Well worth a visit



From Ringinglow Road, turn opposite the 'Hammer and Pincers'
up Muskoka Drive, turn 2nd left into Muskoka Avenue to end of cul-de-sac

JMALCOLMWILD Antique & Modern Clock & Watch Repairs

by Fellow of the British Horological
Institute

*Specialist in the repair of
Grandfather, Bracket & Carriage
Clocks
Clocks and parts manufactured*

WANTED:
Mechanical Wristwatches,
Pocket Watches & Clocks
in any condition

12 Norton Green Close,
Sheffield S8 8BP
Telephone: 274 5693



Alyson Nicholson Catering

Cordon Bleu Cook

*Specialising in Dinner Parties,
Cocktail Parties, Buffets
and Family Occasions*

71 Riverdale Road,
Sheffield
S10 3FE

0114 263 0458 · 07721 365 721

Inspire

Contributors	Peter Das, Mary Grover, Michael Holmes, Brian Jeremiah, Matthew Rhodes, Roy Stanley, Julian and Veronica Sullivan and Philip Walshaw
Editor	Philip Walshaw: 07815 963807 jpwalshaw@gmail.com
Design	Philip Walshaw
Printers	PRINTWORKS Sheffield (www.printworksprint.co.uk)
Advertising	Peter Marrison: 07581 888068 wpmarrison@btinternet.com
Administrator	Claire Webber (0114) 230 1199
Publisher	Parochial Church Council of the Church of St John the Evangelist, Ranmoor, Sheffield

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 June edition is Wednesday, 20th June, 2024.

Disclaimer:

The views expressed in this magazine are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily shared by the publisher. We reserve the right to amend articles submitted for publication. Articles submitted may be posted on our website unless you specify otherwise. The publisher does not accept any responsibility for goods or services bought from advertisers in this magazine.

Subscriptions:

You can collect or we can deliver Inspire if you live within the local area. We can post Inspire to you; we will make a small additional charge for this to cover the cost of postage. If you would like to subscribe, please send your contact details to the Parish Administrator at the following address: Inspire Subscriptions, Ranmoor Parish Centre, 5 Ranmoor Park Road, S10 3GX. Once we have received your details, we will contact you.



FOR THE DAY AND ALL THE DAYS TO COME...

A child arrives....



A marriage begins...



A life ends...



We are here for you.

JUST ASK...

St John's Church, Ranmoor

0114 230 1199

administrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

RANMOOR PARISH CENTRE

Newly
Refurbished
Rooms in 2020

Rooms to Hire from as little as £10 per hour.

Discount available for charities, people living in the Parish of St John's, 1/2 and full day hire.

For more information and availability contact:

0114 230 1199 or email: administrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Ranmoor Parish Centre offers a tranquil location for various types of groups including music and singing, yoga, performing arts, meetings, pre school classes and various other occasions. Located in the leafy Sheffield suburb of Ranmoor, we are less than three miles from both the city centre and the beautiful Peak District National Park. Public transport links to and from the city are excellent. Contact us for more information or to take a tour visit our website. www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Ranmoor Parish Centre,
5 Ranmoor Park Road,
Sheffield, S10 3GX
www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk/

