



# INSPIRE

St John's Church  
Ranmoor, Sheffield

September  
2024  
£1.00



## Coach Trip to Filey



At the end of June, these smiling people helped fill Pete Chatterton's coach for a day out in Filey. Here they are at the first coffee stop soon after arriving! This photo was taken by Pauline Heath; Alan was missing as he was walking from Cayton Bay.

# **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 by Philip Walshaw taken above the Chatsworth estate: The Peak District's 'Sycamore Gap'?!

**Large print versions of Inspire are available**

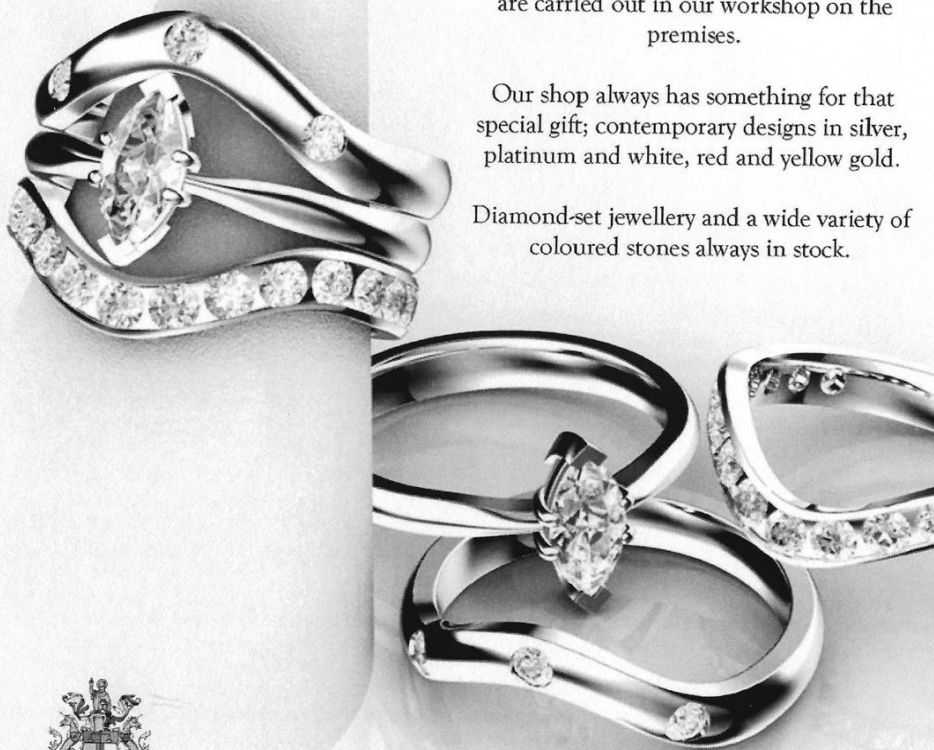
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## Foreword



Douglas Adams' book 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy' was published around the time I started secondary school. I did not understand all of its jokes at the time but I do remember the words emblazoned on the cover - 'DON'T PANIC.' This was also a catchphrase of Corporal Jones in Dad's Army. The instruction not to panic seems as relevant as ever. Apart from the many conflicts around the world at

the moment, we have experienced considerable upheaval over the summer. For many people, our twenty four hour news and social media have heightened feelings of anxiety. Sadly, some now choose to avoid both of these things in order to preserve their sanity.

This month, the Church also marks Creationtide when we are encouraged to think about the environment and our place in it. Many of us worry about the news of rising temperatures and threats to biodiversity. But Creationtide encourages us to dig deeper. As Christians, we are called to continue to delight in the wonderful world God has given us. We are to celebrate the beauty that we see around us and be thankful for the fruits of creation that we enjoy. As people who believe in resurrection, we are called to be hopeful, always looking for signs of new life and helping them to grow. We know that like salt or yeast, something small can have a huge impact. If we all make changes to the way we live, together we can move mountains.

Jesus told us not to spend our time worrying. It is not life-giving. Quite the reverse in fact. As Christians, part of our calling at present may be to offer reassurance and hope to an anxious world. We believe in a God who loves us and seeks the best for creation. We are called to pray for our world and join in with those things that bring God's kingdom closer. Through all that our world is experiencing at the moment, I hope that you are able to trust deeply in God. Whatever you do, DON'T PANIC!

**Matthew**

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## From the Editor's Chair



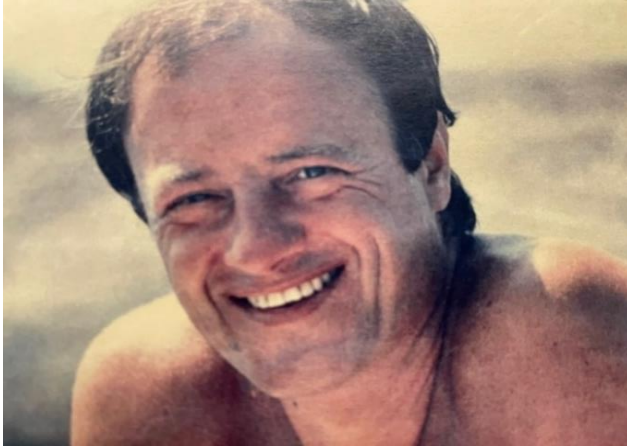
Well, Summer finally arrived, albeit a week late for our family holiday in July, where wind and rain dominated the weather. But if you're bodyboarding and surfing the waves, does it matter if it's raining? Rock pooling and crabbing is fun, also, whatever the weather. All in all, a good time was had by everyone and we were grateful for the opportunity to go on holiday, particularly when we think of others who, for whatever reasons, can't.

As we look towards Autumn and, particularly, Harvest Festival, I can't help but reflect on a poor crop growing season we have had in our garden. Despite Susan's success in cultivating many plants for the Christian Aid Plant Sale, we have failed miserably in three attempts to grow peas and carrots, with only one plant surviving in a pot of its own. Despite all the protective mesh, the slugs, butterflies and other predators have devastated our other crops and we only have the runner beans surviving. And the birds love our fruit; but that's nature. We have an organic garden and encourage the wildlife to be part of it and they need to eat to survive.

We're grateful, therefore, to our farmers for the produce they provide us. We know they have had a difficult year coping with the variable weather conditions and we give thanks, using a line from my favourite Harvest hymn, that "the valleys stand so thick with corn that even they are singing".

***Philip Walshaw***

## **A Tribute for the Life of Anthony John Riddle August 16th 1943 - 29th June 2024**



Anthony was born at 3 Clarkehouse Road in Sheffield to Rowland and Cecile Riddle. Following the war the family moved to Bents Road and a sister, Sheila, was born in 1946. Anthony went to Birkdale Prep School and then to Bromsgrove School in Worcestershire. He left school and joined his paternal uncle at Eadon Lockwood and Riddle as an articled clerk. He went to the College of Estate Management in London and qualified as a chartered surveyor in 1967. Whilst working as an articled clerk, Anthony wandered across from the office to the Stonehouse pub and there, thanks to Susan Fairest and Pat McLaurin (now Heath) he met a first week, first year University student called Kathryn Foster and the rest, as they say, is history.

They were married at Babworth Church in Nottinghamshire in 1967 and moved to Ayot St Lawrence in Hertfordshire where Anthony worked for a surveyor in Berkhamsted and Kathryn at Radlett Prep School. In December 1967 Kathryn bought a moped which she managed to run into the back of Anthony's car as they commuted to work, three months in hospital and three months back at the parental home on crutches put paid to their first Christmas and the tiny angel on top of the tiny tree in



hospital graced all the Christmas trees which followed during their almost fifty seven years of very happy marriage.

Anthony was offered a partnership at Eadon Lockwood and Riddle in January 1970 but first he went to the District Valuer in Hull to gain experience in the Government sector and Kathryn began work in the summer term at a brand new comprehensive school in Hull, all a far cry from Ayot. In December 1969 they returned to Sheffield and bought a house in Stumperlowe Hall Road where in 1970 Nicholas was born. In 1972 Oliver arrived and Thomas completed their family in 1977. From the moment that they came back to Sheffield, Anthony was extensively involved in the city and the parish. They also bought a cottage in Mochrum, South West Scotland and summer holidays were spent exploring Dumfries and Galloway. Beach digging, ball rolling, picnics on the beach, mackerel fishing and when the rain came, ferocious and lengthy games of monopoly and *Horace goes Skiing*.

In 1980 the family moved to Ranmoor Crescent and it was here on June 29th 2024 that Anthony died, in the home he loved and which he could never quite believe that he had been lucky enough to buy. During his working life, Anthony became senior partner at ELR Residential, a tax commissioner, Trustee of the Sheffield Royal Society for the blind, Chairman of the National Homes Network, a Trustee and then chairman of Cherry Tree Children's Home and on the committees of various charities. He was involved in this church, particularly with property matters and was part of the project to convert the Vicarage into the Parish Centre. He was also Chairman of the Ranmoor Society and was interested in all things connected with buildings in the area. A member of the Norfolk Parish Churches Trust he never lost his fascination for old Churches or buildings.

Socially, he enjoyed the Got out of jail lunch club, the Birthday Club, and the Sheffield Club - all of which had some of his oldest and closest friends as members. Once in retirement, he continued with various charities and also became a governor of Ashdell Girls School - quite a departure for a man who had spent a proportion of his life paying school fees to boys' schools. He loved pottering in his garage which of course was full

of things he had kept because he never quite new if it would come in handy one day.

Other retirement hobbies included going on a chocolate making course, making jams and marmalades - under his "brand" *Bon Grand Papa*. General baking with the grandchildren was also a very popular pastime for all concerned. The garden, mending anything that was broken, walking the family dogs and going to Daimler and other rallies in his beloved SP250. Cars at Goodwood, horses at Ascot were special treats as were trips by car through Spain (he went to University to learn Spanish) and boats in Menorca and other places with family and friends.

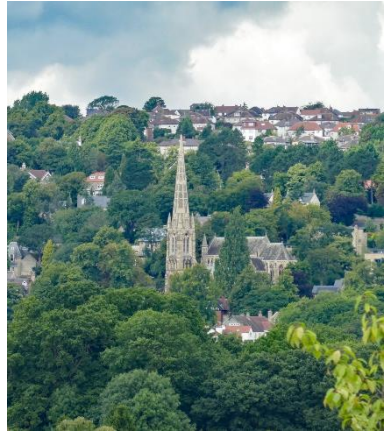
Above all he loved his family, Kathryn, his sons, their wonderful wives and his adored grandchildren - Sophie, Charlie, George and Isobel. In his last days, the family spent a lot of time with Anthony at home where he had a brilliant team of carers, garden in bloom, sunshine and even some roses. Anthony died as he lived - politely, simply, cautiously and surrounded by love.



# Scissors Paper Stone

*The geologist Scott Engering gave a fascinating talk recently as part of the Scissors Paper Stone project setting out what we know about the geology of the stones used to make St John's. Here is a summary of it.*

The City of Sheffield is not best known for its historic architecture but, when exploring the Porter Valley, I have seen St. John's church from many viewpoints and I think that it is one of Sheffield's most distinctive landmarks, particularly with its very tall spire. As a geologist with expertise in building stones, looking at it closely for the first time, I was very surprised to discover that the dressings to the exterior and the stone for the interior are made of Ancaster limestone from Lincolnshire – which has a very good reputation as a building stone – but the walling of the exterior is built with an inferior quality sandstone.



When the original church was built in 1879 by E. M. Gibbs and then rebuilt in 1888, high quality medium grained sandstones from Derbyshire and West Yorkshire had been widely used in very many of Sheffield's prestigious buildings. Unlike West Yorkshire, which still produces top quality sandstone that is widely exported to the rest of the UK, Sheffield has only quarried sandstone for local use; however, the fabric of the many buildings that are contemporaneous with St. John's church are generally still in very good condition.

According to newspaper cuttings, the sandstone is from Oughtibridge, where most of the quarries have been sited on the Loxley Edge Rock, a sandstone formation that tends to be very coarse grained in this part of Sheffield. At the time when the church was first built, the Hags Stones



quarry was by far the largest quarry working this formation and samples previously collected from the quarry are a reasonable match, but this is far from conclusive.

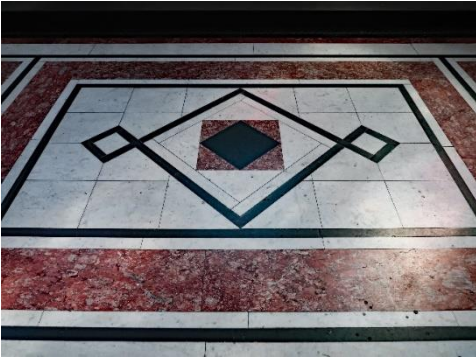
The mixture of limestone and sandstone has been considered to be the cause of the advanced state of decay of the sandstone masonry in the spire, which is usually

associated with very high levels of atmospheric pollution. In industrial areas, acid rain reacts with limestone to form calcium sulphate, a highly soluble salt that dissolves, runs down the masonry and recrystallises within the pores of the sandstone.

For the interior of the church, which is in the Early English Gothic style and has the dimensions and features of a small cathedral, Ancaster limestone has been used throughout and, looking closely, a pink tinge to the stone is often seen. The exquisite carved stonework is by the eminent architectural sculptor Frank Tory, who had already demonstrated that he was very capable of producing very intricate carving in gritstone, as seen at the old gates to Sheffield Cathedral and the adjoining Parade Chambers.



Various decorative stones have been used for flooring in the chancel, choir and south chapel. The white marble is from Carrara in Italy, used together with what looks like Cork Red Marble, an iron stained Carboniferous limestone from Co. Cork in the Republic of Ireland. During the reordering of 1991, the chancel was extended and a different red marble was used for this and for restoration of the south chapel floor. In many later Victorian churches, polished black Carboniferous limestone was widely used, along with Carrara marble, for chequerboard pattern flooring, with Co. Galway and Co. Kilkenny in the Republic of



Ireland and Belgium being major suppliers. These are not easy to distinguish, but one of these has been used as edging and inlays in the chancel floor.

The reredos was also carved by Frank Tory and is made with English alabaster and Caen stone from Normandy in

France, which is rarely used in the north of England and was first used after the Norman Conquest in 1066 – with Canterbury Cathedral and the White Tower at the Tower of London being notable examples of its use. For the columns to the reredos, red marble has also been used along with a green to grey marble, possibly a variety of Connemara Marble from Co. Galway, which was often used in conjunction with Cork Red Marble and Kilkenny limestone by Victorian architects. The pulpit is made of Caen stone and Ancaster limestone, with columns of red marble



similar to that used for the chancel and a polished black limestone, which contain fossils like those found in the Kilkenny limestone, has been used for the moulded band, plinth and steps.

Finally, the font in the baptistery is also made of Caen stone, with columns made from green and reddened varieties of the metamorphic rock serpentinite, which look like those that have long been quarried in the area around Genoa in Italy.

It is fascinating to see how many different areas of the country, and indeed of Europe, have contributed to the beauty of St John's.



## **Eco Church Group: “Be careful what you wish for .....**” (Part I) **by John Green**

After many years, here and elsewhere, I finally retired from being a PCC member this April. To my great surprise, Matthew presented me with a very generous ‘Thank You’ gift of a Waterstones book token, from the PCC. This was the ideal present, as it has meant that I could buy the latest books and indulge my interest in politics and economics. This arose mostly from my career in public health and latterly an interest in climate change and Eco-Church. It’s more a search for explanations as to why we have such inequalities in income and health and how has politics influenced this and global warming for good or ill.

At the heart of all this is the question - how have we, as a country, contributed to global warming and what can we do about it? The long answer goes back to the birth of the industrial revolution when we discovered the power of steam generated by burning coal. This made manufacturing on a large scale possible with the transport of materials to factories and finished goods to markets. Someone had to be able to buy all this ‘stuff’ and having a world-wide empire helped. We became the factory of the world for many decades, much as China is today and with it went the burning of coal and resultant emissions. Today the roles are reversed as we are a net importer of goods and we have exported our emissions to China (and the jobs that went with them).

Ultimately this is all about consumption and as we became richer as a nation we could buy more ‘stuff’ and replace things more often as they became worn or unfashionable. Being brought up with post-war austerity in the 40’s and 50’s meant that consumer goods like cars, fridges and televisions, were rare but as we recovered from the effects of the war, they became normal. This post war period is recalled with nostalgia however things really began to change in the 70’s and 80’s with the closure of mines and factories and the rapid de-industrialisation of

cities like Sheffield. The political view was that this was just a natural progression in the economy, as we changed the focus nationally to service industries and finance but logically none of us would have voted for job losses and the break-up of long-standing communities.

This was the issue at the centre of my search for answers as to why we changed so much and so quickly. At the heart of all this has to be government policy so my first purchase was Rory Stewart's book "*Politics at the Edge*" which is a withering account of his experience of being at the centre of government in the Noughties. He is far from complimentary about the competence and knowledge of his fellow MPs and a measure of the interest in his views is that the book has been at the top of the best seller list for many months. His podcast with Alastair Campbell, "*The Rest is Politics*" is equally popular and equally informative. Another take-down of parliament is by Ian Dunt, a journalist from The Independent, with his book "*Westminster - how it works and why it doesn't*". This is a fascinating read, all about the key elements of Government including the Civil Service and his conclusion is that the only parts of Government that work well are the Select Committees and surprisingly - The House of Lords.

The reasons are to do with scrutiny of legislation and making laws which really address the issues that concern us - the electorate. Debate in the Commons is not really about improving legislation and with our '*first past the post*' system giving governments a majority then whatever the government wants to do can be 'whipped' through and MPs are simply required to walk through the lobby to vote. It's only when they are free from these constraints, in the Select Committees, can they take the proposed laws apart and improve them in our interests. Having appeared at the Heath Select Committee, I can vouch for their thoroughness.

The House of Lords has a significant membership of those eminent in a wide range of endeavours such as the Law, Business, Finance, Science and Health. They are able to really scrutinise and amend what Government is proposing, which may be why so many politicians want rid of them. As an aside - the last Parliament had less than 30 MPs out

of 600+ with a STEM qualification (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) so it's not surprising that evidence-based policy was often thin on the ground. It has felt like 'government by ministerial bright idea' for many years, as political preferment depends on being seen to be effective and getting headlines.

However, to return to the questions at the heart of this issue - why and how did things change to a consumer society? Whilst I had thoughts of my own about this, what forces were behind these changes was set out in the book by George Monbiot and Peter Hutchinson - "*The Invisible Doctrine*" which is about an economic theory called Neo-Liberalism. I had vaguely heard about an American economist called Frederik Hayek and his book "The Road to Serfdom" He started the Mount Pelerin Society in the 60's which promoted the idea of the market as the final arbiter of economic value. These ideas were taken up by politicians and more importantly the heads of large global corporations who funded think tanks like the Institute of Economic Affairs, which were really political lobbying organisations.

We've all heard about 'Thatcherism' and 'Reaganomics' but George Monbiot claims that they were really all about the neo-liberal project which promotes citizens as customers to increase consumption and the growth of profits. Lobbying politicians and funding their political parties was the means, with the 'evidence' provided by the 'think-tanks'. They do not have the competence and independence of those like the Institute for Fiscal Studies, run by Paul Johnson, in the UK. The success of this strategy has led to a massive rise in manufacturing and shipping of goods and materials around the world, which has driven the rise in emissions that are a major contributor to global warming and the climate crisis. Globalisation of manufacturing and markets has lifted many countries out of poverty so the challenge is to reduce emissions without causing a world-wide recession.

Paul Johnson was the author of my next book "*Follow the Money*" which is the most understandable explanation of how our economy and taxation works and what should be done to deal with the problems that confront the UK and the world economy. You will not be surprised to



learn that the answer is not “Trussonomics”. Whilst I’m naming names, one other book in my list is “*How they broke Britain*”, by James O’Brien, a broadcast journalist. He describes the political characters of the last thirty years who have contributed to our current feeling that nothing works. Murdoch, Cameron, Johnson, Farage and others are on his ‘charge sheet’.

Whilst all these books give fascinating insights into how the economy and government works and a diagnosis of our current problems, what they don’t have, in any quantity is remedies. For that I’ve found my latest ‘Waterstones’ book - “*Doughnut Economics*” by Kate Raworth. It was first published in 2017 but this latest edition reflects recent events and the implementation of her ideas. It fits well with our Eco-church aims, which is why I’m writing all this but I’ve run out of space, so you’ll have to wait till next time to find out.

## Bible Study Group

This autumn we shall be running a new Bible Study group. This will be a term time only study group but we intend to run the group throughout the year. The group will meet **fortnightly** on a Tuesday evening from 7.30pm - 9.00pm. This term’s meetings start on Tuesday 3rd September and will run until the start of Advent. Rev Peter has kindly offered to host the meetings at his house in Crospool.

The evening will start with refreshments and welcome, then we will use the Gospel reading from the previous Sunday as the focus of our meeting and finish the evening with said Night Prayer (Compline). We hope that our discussions will be relaxed and informal and will help us to put the reading in context and also reflect on its relevance to our lives as Christians today.

We hope that you will join us for this new venture, which will give us space in our busy lives to meet together informally and share our faith. Please get in touch with either Rev Peter or myself if you would like know more.

We look forward to seeing you in September.

**Sandra Green and Rev Peter Das**

**ST JOHN'S CHURCH, RANMOOR**  
**CALENDAR – SEPTEMBER 2024**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**10.30am** All Age Service

**6.30pm** BCP Communion

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

**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 (said)

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

**10am** Toddler and Baby Group

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

Heritage Open Day and Talk

Church will be open from 2pm, talk at 5.30pm

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**10.30am** Parish Communion

**6.30pm** Choral Evensong

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

**11.30am** Holy Communion in the Parish Centre

**12.30pm** Lunch Club

**5.30pm** Choral Evensong

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

**10am** Toddler and Baby Group

**1.30pm – 4.30pm** Ageing Seminar (Parish Centre)

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**10.30am** Parish Communion

**6.30pm** Choral Evensong

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September**

**7.30pm** PCC meets in the annexe

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

**11.30am** Holy Communion in the Parish Centre

**10-12.30pm** Foodbank Collection from the Church Drive

**5.30pm** Evening Prayer

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

**10am** Toddler and Baby Group

**20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> September**

Three Spires Mission Area Weekend

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**10.30am** Parish Communion

**11.30am** – Weston Park – Time for tea (Coffee morning after the morning service)

**6.30pm** Choral Evensong

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

**11.30am** Holy Communion in the Parish Centre

**10-12.30pm** Foodbank Collection from the Church Drive

**5.30pm** Choral Evensong

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

**10am** Toddler and Baby Group

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September – Harvest Festival**

**10.30am** Harvest Parish Communion

**12noon** – Harvest Lunch

**6.30pm** Choral Evensong - St Michael and All Angels

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September**

**7.30pm** Sanctuary in the side chapel

**Other services during the week:**

**Holy Communion:** Every Wednesday at 11.30am, Parish Centre

**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.

**Lunch Club:** meets every Wednesday in the Parish Centre. All

Welcome – please book with the Parish Office

**Sunday Social:** Meets straight after morning service on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

**Our Sunday Services** are always in Church and on YouTube.

The Parish Office is open Monday - Wednesday 9.30am to 2.30pm

## Parish Registers

**Please remember those who were married here recently:**

Dan Rawley and Emily Matkin

**Please remember those who have died recently:**

Anthony Riddle and Roy Mallinson

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

Our thoughts and prayers are with all the friends and families of those names listed.

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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.

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# Young People's Page

Here's something that you might want to do - with or without the help of an adult!

## Make a deluxe hedgehog house



**You will need**

- 20mm FSC plywood boards cut to the sizes shown
- Hammer and nails
- 2 metal hinges
- Soil
- Dry leaves
- Pet straw
- Polythene sheeting

*Birch is ideal!*

**1** Construct the hedgehog house from the following diagram and dimensions.

**2** Put the pet straw inside, cover the house with polythene sheeting, then pack soil and dead leaves around the outside.

Do not creosote or treat the wood

Make sure the entrance tunnel faces south, and is kept clear at all times

The roof is hinged so you can clean the box in future

raised up on feet

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

©corinne welch, 2015

## Floral decorations in Church for Harvest Festival



We will be decorating the church with flowers for Harvest on Saturday 28th September from 9.45am – 11.45am. We usually make arrangements for the window sills, the font, the church porch and two pedestals at the front of church, so we need lots of arrangers!

The theme for harvest this year is based on 'The parable of the weeds'. We will be completing arrangements on the windowsills in

large glass jars (which we will supply) with autumnal colours incorporating foliage, autumn flowers (and hopefully some wild flowers if still around) seedheads, berries and fruits on the windowsills. We will provide a tied bunch of corn for the centre of the arrangement. We are hoping to achieve an informal effect - think cornfields and hedgerows! Please start saving your seedheads for us to use for harvest.

It would be wonderful to recruit some more people to help us with the flowers. If you are new to flower arranging and are interested in learning we are a very friendly group of people and we'd gladly give you help and encouragement on the day or perhaps you might like to just come along and watch the arrangements take shape!

If you would like to help or be involved, please could you get in touch with either myself or Jackie. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you.

Sandra Green (0114 2309180 [sandra.green70@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.green70@gmail.com))

Jackie Lowe (0114 2303999 [jackielowe22@btconnect.com](mailto:jackielowe22@btconnect.com))

## Restaurant Review: Manzil Spice, 742 Ecclesall Road Sheffield 11



I think you would probably agree that the best thing to do on a Saturday night is to consume six pints of lager, swiftly followed by a really good Indian curry. Ok, perhaps the six pints of lager may be somewhat of a challenge to the citizens of Ranmoor, but the concept of a skilfully prepared, well presented Indian curry must be a pretty tempting prospect. Sadly, whilst the procurement of lager in our noble city presents little problem, finding an establishment able to offer high quality Indian cuisine is not easy. Discussing this perennial problem with G, the Manzil Spice restaurant was mentioned as a possible solution based on the premise that the last time we had dined in that area of the city's culinary offerings (the Olive restaurant actually – a current favourite) the next door establishment seemed to be filled to overflowing (almost) with apparently cheerful diners. This “next door” place was in fact the Manzil Spice Indian restaurant which if you have forced yourself to read the above preamble, this revelation will no doubt have been pretty obvious. Actually, if you feel somewhat patronised by this rather bland rhetoric, it isn't compulsory to read the whole review – why not skip the next bit and just read the “Verdict” bit at the end?

## The Meal (part one)

A modest amount of research revealed that the Manzil Spice had opened as a restaurant in 2023, having taken over the site of a long-standing Art Gallery - name unknown as I had never noticed its existence. Seemingly the current owners, Mazher and Nasreen Iqbal have had experience in the (apparently) famous Indian restaurant Mangla which had been situated in Sheffield's Spital Hill, and hoped to transfer their expertise to this new culinary venture to the gourmet cauldron of Sheffield's Ecclesall Road. Can't comment on this as I'd never heard of the Mangla. Not too sure where Spital Hill is either!



So, filled with hope and cautious optimism, an early (7.00pm) booking was arranged for the following Saturday – a fine evening and a convenient parking space directly outside the restaurant was a pretty good start. Swift exit from the aged Mini into a very full dining area inside. A pleasant welcome from Mazher Iqbal, with a further cheerful welcome from brother Nasreen - both seemingly working front of house with professional expertise. So far the vibrations very positive!

## The Meal and Verdict

For the discerning reader of the many restaurant reviews that I have enjoyed writing for several years, the next few paragraphs will offer a rather different take on restaurant life. Having become rather bored with watching Wimbledon, (and being aware that the editorial deadline for submitting copy to our heroic editor has entered its final 24 hours,) finishing this review seemed not a bad idea. All the “Meal part One” stuff, plus the opening preamble, were composed and written, pre Wimbledon tennis fortnight - which left a fair amount of the required clinical discourse on quality of various food and drink options, ambiance and whatever else comes to mind as the laptop keyboard takes over any



form of logical cognisant meaning. Thus, as I'm sure you will appreciate, some speedy checking with the Manzil Spice website and menu would be helpful as a memory refresh. Surprisingly (and sadly!) on attempting to access the website the chilling words "Permanently Closed" appeared. Manzil Spice no longer exists!

If you have politely forced yourself to read the whole of the above diatribe, I offer humble apologies for the abrupt ending. Actually, I did suggest it may a good idea to skip all the various preamble and just read the "verdict". Unfortunately, the restaurant trade is incredibly volatile – very much a "here today and gone tomorrow" existence – although usually not quite so abrupt in its happening! A pity really, my one (and only) visit to the Manzil Spice restaurant was very enjoyable, and I really am sorry that you will never be able to enjoy that transient moment of culinary near perfection. You can't win them all!

**Roy Stanley**



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## Church on Holiday: St Nicholas Church, Kemerton by Philip Walshaw



In May, Susan and I went to the RHS Flower Show at Great Malvern and stayed overnight in the nearby picturesque village of Kemerton. We had a pleasant walk along village roads with its characterful houses, many of which were beautifully thatched, and the village stream meandering along the bottom of their gardens and parallel with the grass verges making it chocolate box picture perfect.

We eventually reached the church which was founded in the 1100s, rebuilt more than once and is now primarily Victorian. The church door was invitingly open and, of course, we popped in. I was immediately drawn to the lovely painted reredos behind the main altar, which



was painted by a local artist and are copies of part of the frescoes by Benozzo Gozzoli which cover the walls of the chapel in The Riccardi



Palace in Florence. I was also struck by the amount of interesting stained glass windows and I was informed by the guide that there can be few churches which can boast that they have a set of windows that depict Christ's life from the Annunciation, through his boyhood, his Baptism, Passion, Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension and Pentecost. (Have you noticed that there are five main church windows in St John's that don't have stained glass? See if you can spot them – four are obvious, but one isn't.)

Inside St Nicholas Church, there was a notice that directed us to an adjacent walled garden that was developed about 25 years ago from an area of mainly orchard by Lady Meriel Darby (daughter of former Prime Minister Sir Alec Douglas Hume and husband of Adrian Darby, O.B.E. and former President of 'Plantlife', an international conservation charity working to secure a world rich in wild plants and fungi.) By her own admission, the garden is not fit to be opened to the public most of the time due to the lack of sufficient helpers to keep it trimmed and weeded, but it was a pleasure for Susan and I to wander along the sometimes overgrown paths and listen to the humming of the bees and the singing of the birds; a welcome contrast to the often too well-manicured gardens. Because the garden lies, so close to the church tower, Meriel's concept was to create along its curving paths the spirit of a cloister, a place to wander round and round, somewhere to contemplate or pray, or be quiet. To carry out the



symbolism a little further, she saw that the intersecting paths of irises were in the shape of a cross and the fruit and vegetables in the centre somehow equivalent to the nourishment to be found within a church. In effect, she wanted it to feel like a sacred, much-loved place and I felt that she had succeeded, as I sat on an uncomfortable log in the little meditation garden!

Our short stay in Kelmerton was a welcome precursor to the following day's visit to the Great Malvern Flower Show which we also enjoyed. Oh and, by the way, Susan bought some plants there and I bought some woolly hiking socks!



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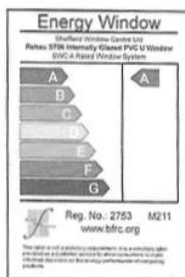
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## Quiz: Female Popular Singers compiled by Philip Walshaw



The answers to the clues below are female popular singers from the 1905s to present day. A prize awaits the person who submits the most correct answers. A bonus point will be awarded for identifying the singer 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](mailto:jpwalshaw@gmail.com) or by post to 19 Cairns Road, S10 5NA to

reach me by Wednesday, 18th September, 2024.

1. Featured in a mosaic he redesigned (4)
2. Herby bread I baked differently (6,5)
3. Sounds like a nice beach (6,4)
4. Gem with mint (4,6)
5. Reformed Presbyterians (7,6)
6. Powdery, water meadow (5, 11)
7. Clothes maker, we hear, is fast. (6,5)
8. May change in front of drinks establishment (3,9)
9. A pal I fathom turned out to be a popular singer (6,5)
10. Back later for a change (7,5)
11. On and around a season of the year (5,6)
12. Takes hub to be repaired (4,4)
13. A barrister's band regrouped (6,9)
14. Pretty Scottish roofer, sounds like (6,5)
15. I scorn finance - change to reveal late 50s singer (6,7)

**Answers to July/August Quiz:** 1. Three Merry Lads 2. Rising Sun 3. Shiny Sheff  
4. Nottingham House 5. Closed Shop 6. Gardeners' Rest 7. Blind Monkey 8. Head of Steam  
(featured) 9. Fox and Duck 10. Masons' Arms 11. All Bar One 12. Lescar 13. Springvale Hotel  
14. Sportsman 15. Norfolk Arms

**Entries were received from:** Ruth Cheshire, Lynn and Steve Lawless, Brenda and John Staniforth, Marion Taylor and Barbara and Peter Wozencroft.

**The winners** were Brenda and John Staniforth, who receive a box of chocolates.

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churchwardens@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

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**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

36<sup>th</sup> 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 Foster

liam.foster@cheshirescouts.org.uk





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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 June edition is Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2024.**

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# Scissors Paper Stone

St John's Church, Ranmoor

## The life of Job Stone and other stonemasons of Ranmoor

A Heritage Open Day talk by local  
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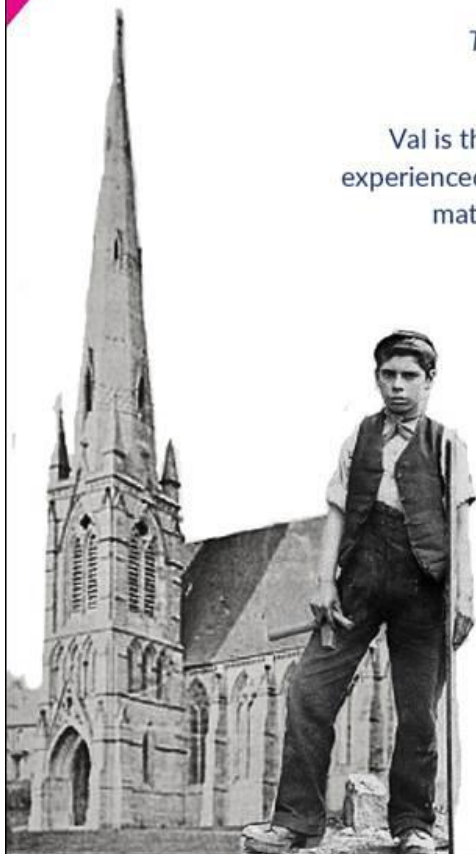
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