



INSPIRE

St John's Church
Ranmoor, Sheffield

November
2024
£1.00





Flowers in Church for Harvest Festival



St John's Church, Ranmoor, Sheffield

Parish Office, Ranmoor Parish Centre,
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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.

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Cover photo by Philip Walshaw: Redmires Reservoir

Large print versions of Inspire are available

Foreword



November can have a rather sombre air with its grey skies and increasingly leafless trees. It can also feel a bit sombre in church. As well as remembering great Christian figures from the past at All Saints, we also recall those who have been dear to us at All Souls. This year, we will be remembering the faithful departed at 6.30pm on 3rd November. Do come along, especially if you want to remember someone who has died. The

following weekend is of course Remembrance, when we will be thinking of all those who have died in wars past and present.

While this may all sound a bit gloomy, I am reminded of some wonderful words from I Thessalonians that were read at Helen Orton's funeral last month: '*We do not grieve as others do who have no hope.*' While death is real and grief needs to be acknowledged, as Christians we believe that it is not the end. Rather, it is a step into another and greater reality.

Currently, there is a lot of public discussion around death, from the shortage of burial spaces, to cremation without a funeral, to the legalisation of assisted suicide. And yet, as individuals, we struggle to talk about one of the great certainties of life. Some of us may have questions and anxieties and might benefit from talking about them in a safe and supportive environment. We would no doubt find that we are not alone. We may also discover that huge amounts of wisdom are available from other people and from our Christian tradition.

Following the very helpful gathering to talk about aging that took place in September, I would like to invite you to come and talk about death and dying in the Parish Centre on 30th January 2.30 to 4pm. I have done something similar in a previous parish and you would be surprised how much laughter can be generated from such a seemingly sombre subject!

Matthew

Building Project Update



St John's
Ranmoor

INSPIRE PROJECT

I'm writing to update you on St John's building project: the Inspire Project. It may seem like not very much is happening but behind the scenes people have been very busy.

Over the last couple of years the PCC and Building Group have been discerning how our church building could be better used to serve our community. The Inspire Project seeks to transform St John's into a welcoming and comfortable space that can be used not only

for our worshipping life together, but for a whole range of community activity.

The Inspire Project includes essential works such as the restoration of the tower and spire, provision of toilet and kitchen facilities and a new heating system. But there are other changes we'd like to make to the building over time, including a new extension to the north-west with an enhanced entrance for those with accessibility needs, reordering of the vestries, removal of the pews to create a flexible nave space and installation of new lighting and audio visual equipment. This is obviously a long list, and we may not be able to get sufficient funding to do everything.

We will be submitting an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a substantial grant to support our vision. I am enormously grateful to everyone who has contributed, particularly the members of the Building Project steering group. I would also like to thank everyone

who has participated in our Scissors Paper Stone programme which has given us a new appreciation of our beautiful building. This has been crucial in developing our case for Heritage Lottery funding.

The success of any grant relies on us continuing to make the wonderful heritage of St John's available to the whole community. The application is accompanied by plans for how we would like to use St John's in the future. These plans include many more heritage events like those delivered as part of Scissors Paper Stone, more intentional work with local schools to provide curriculum-based visits, events specifically targeted at engaging with children and families and development of a range of heritage interpretation materials to better explain the heritage in our building.

We also have an increasing need to make our building financially sustainable for the future and the proposals within the Inspire Project will help with this. We hope St John's will be an attractive setting for community groups to hire throughout the week, making full use of the church. Our beautiful building is ideal for arts events and exhibitions and we hope to see many more groups using St John's in this way. We also plan to open a community cafe on weekday mornings, serving refreshments and offering a warm space for our local community.

We plan to launch a major fundraising campaign to raise match funding in the new year. In the meantime, I would be very grateful for your prayers for this process. The vision is a bold one, but we hope and pray that it will enable more people to connect with St John's and that our inspiring building may seek to inspire the worshipping and community life here in Ranmoor.

Matthew

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From the Editor's Chair



'Attention to detail' was a maxim I instilled into my colleagues during my working life, so I was quite annoyed with myself when I mistakenly put Rowan Ireland's Christian name as Rowland in the last issue. *'We all make mistakes'*, though, don't we? Well, I don't usually, but *'nobody's perfect'*, are they? Not even me! But we're *'only human'* aren't we? *'To err is human'*, after all, but as English poet Alexander Pope concluded, *'to forgive, divine.'*

So, here am I pleading mercy and forgiveness but then I turned to the bible and was comforted in what the Bible says in Proverbs 28:13: A person who refuses to admit their mistakes can never be successful (it doesn't always apply in the real world) but if that person confesses and forsakes those mistakes, another chance is given (it doesn't always happen).

Which leads us into the blame game and I was disappointed to read that another sporting tradition is going to die: Wimbledon will start to replace line judges with robotic artificial intelligence (AI). Tennis players sometimes blame a linesperson rather than themselves for a shot landing out and, yes, mistakes can happen but, overall, the linespeople are accurate and honest. Tennis is played by humans and has its faults, pardon the pun, but for 147 years humans have officiated. However, it appears that change is a comin'....

Who knows, next month it might be AI that is writing from the Editor's Chair?

Philip Walshaw

A Tribute for the Life of Helen Davina Orton (nee Tew) **31st March 1933 – 8th September 2024**



Helen was born in 1933, the youngest after Betty and Desmond, of the three children of Kennedy and Annie Tew. Ken was a Lloyds Bank manager and they eventually settled in Welwyn Garden City, where he was appointed an inspector. Life involved living in the houses over the banks as he was moved from branch to branch and occasionally during the war years, when air sirens sounded, taking refuge in the cellars below. Annie was from Anglesey farming stock and Welsh was her first language. Family holidays

often involved visits back to Anglesey and Helen, very proud of her Welsh heritage, would always support Wales against England, especially at rugby.

Helen's middle name, Davina, which she never really liked, was given in honour of Commander David Evans AM, a friend of her father from Navy days in the First War who had introduced him to Annie. David was a great family friend, godfather and driving instructor to Helen. After the Second War he was Warden of Devonshire Hall at Leeds University. He encouraged Helen to go there to read Social Studies after she left school in 1951. Soon after arriving there, she met Francis Orton nearly six years her senior, a postgraduate student of agricultural economics.

Between them, Leeds University and Francis helped Helen develop from a Young Conservative wearing white gloves to canvas in the poorer areas of Leeds, to the mildly left of centre, Guardian reading NHS supporter that she remained thereafter. Helen and Francis were married on 4th September 1954 by Francis's father Canon Herbert Woodford Orton. They first set up home in Oxford where Francis conducted further research at Worcester College and Helen worked as personnel

manager for Frank Cooper's marmalade. Francis's work then took him to Fison's at Levington and the pair of them to live in the Rectory Annex in the village of Nacton, near Ipswich. It was here that Giles was born in 1959. Hilary followed in 1961. In 1962 Francis began his career in university administration, taking a job as Assistant Registrar back at Leeds where Paul was born in early 1963.

In 1966, Francis took the job of Deputy Registrar at Sheffield University where he later became Registrar and Secretary in 1978. Neither Francis nor Helen ever had any interest in association football but the game played a part in their move to Sheffield. They had been concerned it would be too much of a grimy industrial city but on a visit on a Saturday in early May 1966, they were impressed by the leafy suburbs of S10 and the minimal amount of traffic on the roads. It was only later that they came to appreciate that this lack of activity was down to Sheffield Wednesday playing in the Cup Final that afternoon.

The family moved in to 28 Watson Road, Broomhill which was to be Helen's home for the next 57 years. Giles, Hilary and Paul all went through Nether Green and King Edward VII schools before going on to university. Helen enjoyed cooking on her ancient AGA and did a great deal of sewing of clothes, and indeed of tents and awnings, as the family moved from camping to caravan holidays. As the family grew up, Helen took up work as a lecturer in social studies at what was then the Polytechnic. At first, she was in the Department of Social Studies but she found some of her Marxist colleagues, the gym-shoe brigade as she called them, rather tiresome. She was very pleased to be able to move across to the new Department of Health studies where she played a role in a pioneering degree course in nursing. As well as lecturing and taking a close interest in the welfare of her students, Helen conducted research into the Ward Learning Climate for student nurses, for which she was awarded the Degree of Master of Philosophy.

Francis retired early in 1982 after a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis. He went on to enjoy 25 years' retirement until his death in 2007, during which he bore his deteriorating health with remarkable fortitude and cheerfulness - assisted enormously by Helen's determined and selfless

support and encouragement. Nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren were accumulated over the years, but in 2001, Helen and Francis's daughter died suddenly and needlessly in Sweden at the age of just 39, leaving her daughter Emmaline just a month old. Helen was very proud of all her grandchildren but the relationship with Emmaline was slightly different. In spite of the distance, she sought to be something of the mother that Emmaline had lost. Helen also sought to recover in Emmaline something of the daughter that she had lost.

Helen continued to live at Watson Road. The house remained, as it ever had been, a place of great welcome for visitors of all ages and nationalities, with Helen, as she and Francis had been, always interested in welcoming people to talk and to be inveigled into playing board or card games. In early 2023, as her 90th birthday approached, Helen announced that she had decided it was time to downsize. By October she had acquired and moved into a 2 bedroomed flat at Tapton Court, the former nursing home at the bottom of Shore Lane. Helen was much enjoying life there, continuing to welcome visitors and playing games, backgammon being a recent favourite. She had been very sorry to leave behind her beloved garden at Watson Road but with generous planting she had turned a small patio into a remarkably colourful area which she really enjoyed.

Helen remained remarkably active, having played tennis until she was 70 and table tennis until she was 90. She was still driving around to play croquet at Abbeydale or backgammon with the U3A. Church and the Christian faith were always an important part of Helen's life. She had been raised a Baptist but under the influence of Francis and his father she became a member of the Church of England of a fairly liberal traditional disposition. With Francis, and subsequently on her own, the Church Music Festival at Edington in late August was an absolute fixture in her calendar. Helen was a regular worshipper at St Mark's in Broomhill from 1966

Helen had a lively, questioning faith and she remained remarkably sharp right up until her death. She also had Martha's great gift for hospitality and kindness. Helen was very supportive of Peter our Curate and of

many others. She contributed to our foodbank and to any fundraising we might do. Helen had found her way to St John's towards the end of the pandemic and has been a very faithful member of our congregation here. I think it's significant that our first reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians tells us that the second coming will be announced with trumpets. Helen loved the music at St John's and was very supportive of our choir.

Helen died after falling here in church after our Sunday service. Her UK family had just enough time to get to her bedside. Her death has been a huge shock, not least to her loved ones and you have all been very much in our prayers. But as St Paul says to the Thessalonians, we do not grieve as others do who have no hope. Helen knew where she was going. She talked freely about her own death and it held no fears for her. Like Martha, she believed deeply that Jesus is the Son of God, the resurrection and the life and that those who believe in him will never die. Helen had a gift for encouragement and I think she would want us to encourage one another today.



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Eco Church Group:

by John Green and
Cathy Rhodes



"I wanted to be part of the eco group because I have a passion for the environment and believe that here at St John's we can make a change if we all put in the effort, I'm looking forward to putting in work for the projects over the next few months." (Lily Beardsmore, chorister at St John's)

At St John's we believe that caring for and treasuring God's Creation is part of our mission as Christians. We are registered with the A Rocha Eco Church scheme, along with 73 other churches in Sheffield Diocese. In 2020 we were given a Bronze Award for our work on the buildings and land, and in worship and teaching. We worked on our community and global engagement and encouraging a more eco-friendly lifestyle in our congregation. This work was rewarded with a Silver Eco Church award in 2021.



A lot of the activities and ethos at St John's relate to this award. Some are easy to see, like the cycle racks, or the beautiful pyramid and bee orchids that have grown in the churchyard during 'No Mow May.' Others are part of regular commitments like our fundraising for Christian Aid, Fairtrade tea and coffee, prayers for God's Creation, celebrating Harvest (with sustainable flowers and no floral foam!) and having a renewable electricity tariff with LED lightbulbs.

This commitment is for all of us, and the Eco Church Group reviews and leads this work alongside the clergy leadership team. As members have moved away or gained other responsibilities, John Green and Cathy Rhodes have continued the work. And we are really pleased to have some new members joining us now including Rowan Ireland, and choristers Lily and Mabel. We hope other choir members may join in this work as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. The A Rocha survey has just been revised and we'll complete our survey again and plan our next steps! For example, we'd like to put a small wildlife pond in a safe place in the Parish Centre garden and improve our recycling.

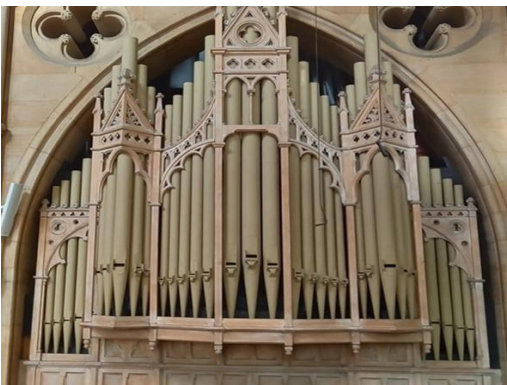
The Church of England is aiming to reduce the carbon footprint of churches to zero by 2030. As part of Eco Church, we are working to reduce our carbon footprint. The Building Project is a really important part of that. Heating the people not the building (or ceiling), reducing heat loss and having more efficient lighting should make St John's warm and welcoming as well as cheaper to run! Even though it is a challenge to gain a Gold award for our building, we will aim for Gold for our land, worship and teaching, community and global engagement, and our individual lifestyles.

Everyone is welcome to join in our work either as a supporter or being part of the group to plan and achieve our targets. Please pray for the group and supporters. Have a word with the leadership team, John or Cathy if you would like to know more.

A Pipedream

by Julian Gunn, Assistant Organist

Our magnificent organ was originally built by the Sheffield firm of Brindley and Foster in 1888, after the rebuilding of the church following the disastrous fire of 1877. At that time, it had only 26 stops. By comparison, after rebuilding in 1900, 1911, 1963 and 1997, it had acquired 56 stops. These changes were, however, largely internal, so that the organ contains more than 3,300 pipes, which pack the chamber from floor to roof. The external appearance, with both North aisle and Chancel casework, remained as we see them now, from 1900 until 1991. In the 1980s, however, the architect George Pace and his colleague Ronald Sims oversaw re-ordering of the chancel. This involved lime-washing the dark oak choirstalls, and similar treatment of the wooden organ casework. They extended similar treatment to the visible organ pipes in the Chancel, by brush painting them a matt ochre colour, in an attempt to match the surrounding stonework. This was completed in 1991, and that is how they remained until this summer.



The paint did not affect the sound of the pipes, most of which are 'speaking'; i.e. each one is a true musical instrument. But the appearance was decidedly drab, as shown here, and contrasted badly with organs in churches of similar stature to St John's. The contrast was also unsatisfactory as

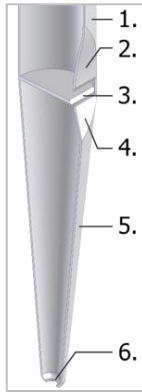
compared with the dignified appearance of the pipes in the North Aisle. This was the situation when I first came to Sheffield in 1991, deputising from time to time at the organ stool. But it was only after I was appointed Assistant Organist in 2017 that the opportunity arose for me to help in a process of restoration, to return the pipes to the shiny metal appearance of normal pipe metal.

The first step was to take soundings from the music team at St John's, and they provided unanimous support for the restoration. The next was to make the case to the Vicar and the PCC. This was done during the Covid pandemic in a lively online meeting. A healthy debate was held, because the painting of the pipes had been approved by the then PCC back in the 1980s, for very respectable reasons. In the end, the decision was made to proceed with the project. Following this, I took soundings from the organ curator, who at that time was Andrew Carter, and the Consultant Organ Adviser, Paul Hale. Paul was very encouraging, and showed me impressive results achieved in a similar restoration at Solihull School. Paul recommended utilising the skills of a car bodywork spray shop.

A detailed inspection with Andrew confirmed that the front pipes were made of zinc, rather than organ metal, which is usually an alloy of tin and lead. Zinc was used quite commonly in Victorian instruments for the larger pipes because it is light and strong, and cheaper than pipe metal for large pipes, without significant loss of sound quality in the lower register. But it had implications for the restoration. At this point, I was in a position to apply for a Diocesan Faculty to undertake the work. This was not a trivial matter, because of the first class Victorian heritage of the church. The case to be made had to be a strong one. I am grateful to all who assisted with that process. In the end, the Faculty was granted, and work could proceed.

But as with any practical undertaking, preparation is key. The organ curator changed twice, which produced some unavoidable delays. The designated car spray shop (John Bee, on Abbeydale Road) needed persuasion, because they had never undertaken such a project before. But they were intrigued! They were more used to Jags and Porsches. The owner visited St John's with me, and inspected the pipes. He pointed out that the first task was to determine how to strip off the paint. This was not a job for him, but for a separate specialist firm. We discussed both chemical and physical stripping. In the end, we identified the firm of Broadblast, in Neepsend, who are experts at preparing metal surfaces of all sorts. They inspected a test pipe, and agreed to cautiously apply a process of glass bead blasting to remove the paint. A particular concern

was to avoid damage to the ‘mouth’ of each pipe – the part which initiates the sound, like a flute.



1. Body or resonator
2. Upper lip
3. Languid
4. Lower lip
5. Foot
6. Toe hole

The test was a success, and we could proceed. Next, we had to find a suitable metallic paint that would match as closely as possible the appearance of pipe metal, because zinc itself is dull. After various experiments conducted by me in my garage, using lengths of scaffolding and numerous rattle cans, I found a precise shade that would do the job perfectly.

This summer, the present Organ Curator, Tristan Moore, of the organ builders Goetze and Gwynn, helped me take down the 37 front pipes.



We had to be careful not to damage either the pipes themselves or the wooden framework holding them. The pipes measured between five and 16 feet in length, the largest having a diameter of six inches. We then loaded them into a hired Luton van (which had to be exactly the right length), with suitable padding. And off I went, at slow speed, avoiding any potholes and bumps. After just three days, contrasting with the three years of build-up, Broadblast rang to say that they had treated all the pipes, stripped all the paint, and not damaged any of the mouths. I visited their facility to inspect



them, and sure enough the results were excellent. The staff at Broadblast were enthused by the whole story. One of them was so excited that he helped me transport the pipes to the car body shop himself in his vehicle. Almost unbelievably, after only four days, the lads at John Bee had completed the painting of the pipes. They rallied round to help me load them so I could return them home.

I was joined at church by Tristan for re-installation, tuning and regulation, which took a whole day. Here is a photo of him at work. The final result was seen and heard at Holy Communion on the morning of Sunday 15th July. There were many complimentary comments from members of the congregation. And one very relieved and pleased Assistant Organist.



Come up to the Chancel and see for yourself. I think you will agree that the appearance of the pipes complements the appearance of our magnificent church, both as it is now, and when the next re-ordering occurs. They should now, like the rest of the instrument, last another 100 years without deterioration.



I hope Messrs Brindley and Foster would be proud.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, RANMOOR

CALENDAR – NOVEMBER 2024

Saturday 2nd November

12noon Baptism of Arabella Brown
2-4pm Messy Church, taking place in the Parish Centre

Sunday 3rd November – All Saints

10.30am All Age Communion
6.30pm All Souls - Service of Commemoration

Wednesday 6th November

11.30am Holy Communion in the Parish Centre

12.30pm Wednesday Lunch Club

5.30pm Choral Evensong

Thursday 7th November

10am Toddler and Baby Group
8pm Organ Recital with Philip Collin

Sunday 10th November

Remembrance Sunday & 3rd Before Advent

10.30am Service of Remembrance

6.30pm Parish Communion

Wednesday 13th November

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

Thursday 14th November

10am Toddler and Baby Group

Friday 15th November – BBC Radio 4 Any Questions

Presented live from St John's.

Tickets must be booked – available from 1/10/2024 on

[ticketsource](https://www.ticketsource)

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-johns-church>

Saturday 16th November

7pm Sheffield Bach Choir – Conductor Philip Collin
Haydn 'Nelson Mass'; Willcocks 'A Great and Glorious Victory'
Tickets on the door or from: www.wegotickets.com

Sunday 17th November - 2nd Before Advent

10.30am Parish Communion

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Monday 18th November

7.30pm PCC meets in the annexe

Wednesday 20th November

11.30am Holy Communion in the Parish Centre

12.30pm Wednesday Lunch Club

5.30pm Choral Evensong

8pm Beer and Hymns

The choir and clergy of St John's, Ranmoor invite you to join them for some favourite hymns and a pint at the Ranmoor Inn.

Thursday 21st November

10am Toddler and Baby Group

Sunday 24th November - Christ the King

10.30am Parish Communion

12noon The Sunday Social

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Monday 25th November

7.30pm Sanctuary in the side-chapel

Wednesday 27th November

11.30am Holy Communion in the Parish Centre

10-12.30pm Christmas Foodbank Collection from the Church Drive

12.30pm Wednesday Lunch Club

5.30pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 28th November

10am Toddler and Baby Group

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)

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 the morning service on the 4th Sunday. Please book with the Parish Office.

Our Sunday Services are always in Church and on YouTube

www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk 0114 230 1199

administrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

The Parish Office is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 9.30am-2.30pm

Parish Registers

Please remember those who have died recently:

Kevin Annis Dodsworth

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

Our thoughts and prayers are with the friends and families.

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Restaurant Review: The Florentine, Tapton Park Road, Sheffield 10



It's a long time since I've indulged in the culinary delights on offer at The Florentine restaurant, handily situated in the posh bit of Sheffield 10. In fact, for those who dedicate part of their lives to keeping records of this periodical's Restaurant Reviews, my last visit date was April 10th 2014. If anybody actually has a record of this particular review (or any of the other restaurant reviews) you really do need to get out more! Much more!

So, (partially!) filled with enthusiasm, I arranged to meet an adequately compliant chum for lunch who had fortunately expressed a cheerful ambivalence as to the dining establishment - provided it was local, and there was provision for dining outside (weather permitting)! Florentine seemed to fit all requirements - especially as Sheffield 10 was experiencing a surprising period of hot sunny weather. The lunch booking had been made for a mid-day start on (fortunately) a pleasant sunny day, a near empty car park on arrival, and above-mentioned chum already on site absorbing the rays from a rarely observed sun.

Sadly, this euphoric vista changed somewhat as we entered Florentine's very smart entrance which led to a "registration" desk dominating a plethora of dining areas. A cohort of two ladies casually ignored us as we waited to announce our presence, hoping to enquire as to the possibilities of dining outside on the sunlit balcony - and perhaps be offered lunch menus. After some minutes, a decision was made for friend to wander outside, commandeer a table while I continued to try and attract the attention of one of the rather non-helpful staff.

This movement on our part stimulated a reaction from the above mentioned "cohort" resulting in one of the ladies detaching herself to inform us that outside dining needed to be pre-ordered, pre-paid, and to make our choice of lunch from a box of menu folders placed some distance away. Suitably chastened, friend was recalled from his table excursions outside and the now secured menus perused. A very necessary beer was ordered and consumed (in part) at the "registration" desk as speedy decisions were made relating to the potential delights described in the now secured food menu.

The Meal (part one)

From a purely financial consideration, the set price lunch menu (two courses £15.75, three courses £18.50) seemed the way forward – especially as the "Main menu" offered the same items at greater cost on a "pro-rata" basis. Actually, as my chum fancied a Margherita pizza, we decided to share my starter choice of garlic breaded mushrooms (from the aforementioned set price menu) whilst the other bit of my two course food allowance was a personal perennial favourite - sausage and mash. Two simple classic "pub meals" (or three if you count the mushrooms) – what could possibly go wrong?

The Meal (part two)

Suitably ensconced on an outside table, absorbing the pleasant Sheffield sunshine, gently imbibing our beer, reflecting on the novel form of greeting offered by the various Florentine "serving" staff we waited for our various order requests to arrive. The arrival was pretty swift. A young waitress, exhibiting an element of skill in both dexterity and cheerfulness deposited our three dishes (see above for any forgotten

details) all of which looked fine. The sausage and mash dish was accompanied by a rasher of streaky bacon, a portion of green beans and a small jug of caramelised red onion gravy. My friend's pizza came with the addition of a small pizza cutter. Nice touch. The garlic breaded mushrooms (quite a fair quantity) resided in a rather attractive china bowl.

Sadly, however, the meal struggled to meet basic "pub standard" requirements. The garlic breaded mushrooms were solid, almost impenetrable, balls of negative culinary appeal. They manifested as a "bought in" item, probably from some lesser Supermarket, then microwaved to a cannon ball consistency. My main sausage and mash dish had obviously been pre-prepared, then experienced dire suffering due to an excessive time spent in the resident microwave oven. The sausage, whilst edible, was of a consistency demonstrated by the breaded mushroom offering: solid, and difficult to cut into. The green beans and potato mash were actually quite reasonable, but the one piece of smoked streaky bacon resembled a burnt offering. Crispy in extremis! My friend consumed his pizza with minimal observations as to its culinary acceptability!

Verdict

What a shame. Florentine really is a very attractive venue, especially if it happens to be a warm sunny day with the potential pleasure of an outside table and a glass of beer. Unfortunately, the social acumen of the resident staff appeared pretty minimal. Also, the quality of the meals served fell well below the standard one would expect from such a fine looking establishment. Would I return? Possibly on a sunny day – but only for a beer!

Roy Stanley

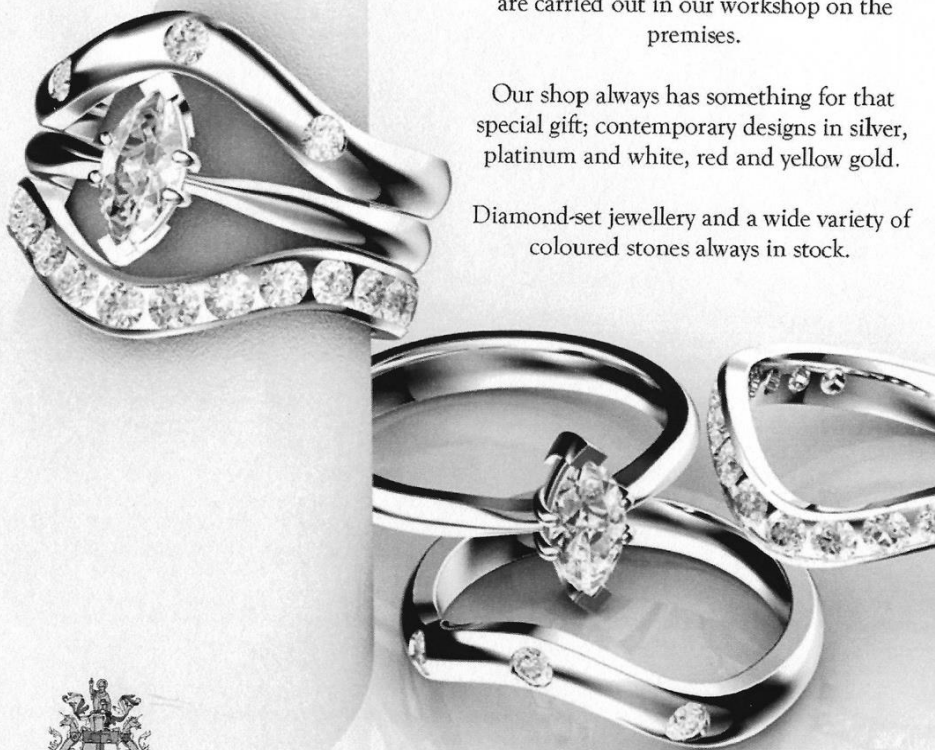
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Scissors Paper Stone

Blog 13: The Stonemasons who Built St John's
by Susan Roe

As part of the Scissors Paper Stone project, Val Hewson and Sue Roe recently gave a talk on the stonemasons who may have built St John's church. It was inspired by the masons' marks discovered in the triforium by Mark Gregory, one of the church wardens. Here, Sue gives a summary of it.

Tracking down the individuals who made these marks was not easy; very often we had only the initials, sometimes with a date. The census records were an obvious source of information but were not always as helpful as we had hoped. Not only was the information scarce, it was often unreliable. One mark was W. Thornton, not too difficult, one would have thought. I discovered a Watson Thornton in the 1861 census. He was born in 1842 so was the right age for working on the church in the 1880s. According to the transcript of the census, Watson, his father and brother were all stone masons, but unfortunately, when I checked the original census document, all three were recorded as *steel melters!*

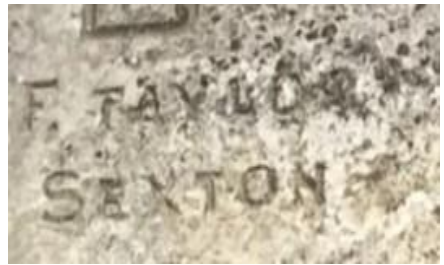


There was one mark, WBP, which was more promising, having three initials to work with. We are confident he was William Baildon Palmer, a stone mason who is recorded as living in Brightside in the 1891 census. Though a long journey with his tools, he could have found temporary lodgings nearer his work as many itinerant masons did. We discovered quite a lot about Palmer. He was born

in Nottingham in around 1862. His father was a coachman at Knowle Manor, a Grade II* listed manor house in the West Midlands. He died in

Brightside on 3 July 1904 of phthisis at the age of 42. According to the Operative Stonemasons Union, his family was entitled to £12 in benefit.

We don't know for certain who FT was. My personal favourite is Farewell Taylor who was from Dore, which was a long walk from St John's. At some stage he was made sexton of Dore church and there is evidence of his work as a monumental mason in the church yard. He died in 1932 and is buried in Dore church yard in the same grave as Sarah Keeton who died in 1927. This was a mystery as I knew he had never married. However, after further investigation the problem was solved: a widow, she was his housekeeper. One possibility for IW is Isaac Wardley. He lived in Woodseats which seems a fair distance from St John's but workers often walked what seem to us long distances to and from work. Also, by the 1890s there were horse drawn trams so



IW 1892

he could have used them. His son, Isaac, was also a mason. The mark was made in chalk, not incised, so could well have been done by the younger Isaac who was only 14 in 1892.

We also investigated the stone masons who lived near to the church who, though not indicated by the marks, may well have worked there. One such family was the Hancocks. Samuel Hancock senior, born in 1835, lived in Fulwood and was a sexton at Fulwood Church. Samuel Hancock junior, born 1860, was also a mason and became a builder and monumental mason. In 1901 Pendeen Road at Nethergreen was a hotbed of masons: 7 in total including Samuel Hancock, builder and marble mason, at number one, his brother Arthur, also a mason and

master builder, at number two. Newspapers were another valuable source of information. Master builders and monumental masons took out advertisements and court cases were reported. According to a report in the Evening Telegraph of February 1895, Samuel Hancock junior was sued by Frank Cuthbert for £6.10s when his pony was killed falling into the quarry off Armthorpe Road worked by Hancock.

Although the information with which we were working was fragmentary and not as conclusive as we had hoped, it was fascinating to try to recover the stories of the masons who may have worked on the church, the type of working men who rarely make it into the history books.



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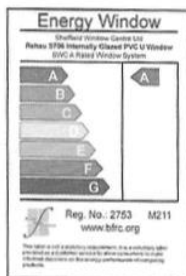
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Quiz: Tools

compiled by Philip Walshaw



The answers to the clues below are tools. A prize awaits the person who submits the most correct answers. A bonus point will be gained for identifying the featured tool. 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 Friday, 15th November, 2024.

1. Neat plugs messed up (6,3)
2. Mediocre journalist observed (4,3)
3. Was returned in a roundabout sort of way (8,3)
4. Ghost laying down? (6,5)
5. Found in some Birmingham merchandise (6)
6. Terribly bad law repealed initially (7)
7. Bird ban (4,3)
8. Little bird with very small chaffinch (6)
9. Keen to merge with Sally (5,4)
10. Change from green, darling (5,7)
11. Crafted in a franchise locally (6)
12. Create a plan extra-terrestrially (7)
13. Disc we've reprogrammed with the three Rs (11)
14. Revealed in a window slat he opened (5)
15. Get plastered with a small amount of cash (5)

Answers to October Quiz: 1. Black Magic 2. Jelly Tots 3. Love Hearts 4. Butterkist 5. Liquorice Allsorts 6. Yorkie 7. Trebor Mints 8. Gobstoppers 9. Quality Street 10. Barley Sugars 11. Sherbet Lemons 12. Maltesers 13. Fisherman's Friend 14. Galaxy 15. Minstrels

Entries were received from: Janet and Malcolm Anker, Ruth Cheshire, Pam and Ian Dall, Michael and Rosemary Hannon, Peter Ivey, Lynn and Steve Lawless, 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

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

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Electoral Roll Officer and PCC Secretary)
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treasurer@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

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Footsteps (for children up to Y6)

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REACH (for young people Y7 and up)

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Flower arranging:

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Music:

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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)

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Liam Foster

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Contributing to Inspire:

As always you should feel free to contribute to the magazine: articles, news, photographs, and anything else that you feel might be suitable. Any contributions received after the date shown below will be considered for publication in the following issue. We cannot guarantee that everything we receive will be published.

The deadline for contributions to the December edition is Friday, 15th November, 2024.

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