

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, RANMOOR



Reports to the 2026 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Publication Date:

5th April 2026

APCM Date:

26th April 2026

This report contains information about many of the groups and activities that have taken place through 2025

The 2025 Accounts are published separately to this document.

This report and the accounts can be downloaded from our [website](https://www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk/Groups/349814/APCM.aspx)
<https://www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk/Groups/349814/APCM.aspx>

Introduction

Welcome to the annual reports and accounts of St John's Ranmoor. These highlight some of the amazing work that is done by so many members of St John's to sustain and enrich its life. I am enormously grateful to the many volunteers who give of their time, talents and resources.

Though we are blessed with all sorts of people who do all sorts of things, we are always on the lookout for new people with new ideas about things we might be doing. Please think about standing for the PCC or talk to Matthew about how you might use your gifts and talents at St John's and in the wider community.

Matthew Rhodes, Vicar

Church Building

Quinquennial Inspection (QI) and Maintenance Planning

In August 2025, the church's architect completed the latest Quinquennial Inspection, a comprehensive review undertaken every five years to assess the condition of the building.

The inspection confirmed that, aside from the spire, the church's fabric remains fundamentally sound. However, it also identified a number of areas where deterioration is progressing steadily, most notably in the high-level stonework and in the rainwater disposal systems. These issues are typical of a building of this age and scale but require timely intervention to prevent more serious problems developing.

The report conveys a clear sense of urgency, particularly in relation to the tower and spire, while also setting out a structured programme of recommended works over the next five years. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) continues to work closely with the church's architects to review these recommendations in detail, establish priorities, and obtain accurate cost estimates. This careful planning is intended to ensure that resources are used effectively and that work is carried out in a manageable and sustainable way.

The Spire and Tower Restoration (SOS Appeal)

Restoring the tower and spire remains the highest priority, with the project cost estimated at £1 million. St John's is currently listed as Category B on the Historic Places of Worship At Risk Register.

- **Fundraising:** The "Save Our Spire" appeal has raised close to £225,000 to date (excluding Gift Aid), thanks to generous support from the congregation and the wider community. In parallel, significant grant applications are being prepared, including a major submission to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. These external funding sources will be essential in enabling the project to proceed.
- **Structural and Water Issues:** Recent periods of severe weather have exposed a failure in the junction between the spire and the tower, allowing water to penetrate the structure.

This has resulted in saturated timber within the tower and flooding in the porch area. Addressing this defect is now considered an urgent priority and will form part of the wider spire restoration project.

Rainwater Goods and Guttering.

As identified in the Quinquennial Inspection report, the effective management of rainwater is one of the most important factors in preserving the fabric of the building. Accordingly, particular attention has been given to this essential aspect of maintenance over the past year.

- **Completed works:** Repairs to the west end guttering were successfully completed in late 2025 at a cost of approximately £40,000 (excluding VAT). This work was funded from reserves and has already led to a noticeable improvement in water management in that area. Damp and salt deposits at the west end have already been visibly reduced.
- **Ongoing maintenance:** With the support of a Net Zero grant, a comprehensive clearance of all gutters was carried out. This work also provided a valuable opportunity to identify sections of guttering requiring repair or further attention.
- **Future works:** The QI recommended a phased approach to the repair and renewal of rainwater goods across the church, potentially addressing one section at a time. This will help ensure that the system is capable of coping with increasingly heavy rainfall. Alongside this, a more regular and sustainable maintenance regime is being established to prevent blockages and reduce the risk of water-related deterioration.

Interior Improvements: Baptistry and Kitchen

- **Baptistry Improvements:** The removal of the steel structure surrounding the font has been completed successfully through volunteer effort, at no cost to the church. This has significantly improved both the appearance and usability of the space, allowing more natural light and creating a clearer visual focus. In accordance with faculty requirements, the original font cover has been retained and stored appropriately within the church.
- **Kitchen and Servery:** Plans are progressing for the installation of a new kitchen and servery, funded by a generous bequest. Initial designs have been revisited to achieve a better balance between practical functionality and sensitivity to the character of the building. The project remains an important element in enhancing hospitality and supporting the church's wider activities.

Infrastructure and Technology

- **Telecommunications:** The mobile phone mast located within the spire continues to provide a valuable source of income. Discussions are ongoing regarding the temporary relocation of this equipment, likely onto a scaffolding structure, to enable the spire restoration works to proceed without interruption.

- **Streaming and Cameras:** The PCC is currently considering proposals to upgrade the church's streaming facilities. This reflects the growing importance of providing online access to services and events, both for those unable to attend in person and for enabling the church to reach a wider congregation. The proposals under review aim to improve the overall quality, reliability and consistency of broadcasts, and to establish a more permanent and sustainable arrangement for the church's digital provision in the years ahead.
- **Organ:** The replacement of the organ's smaller blower has been completed. This work was fully funded by a donor and ensures the continued reliability of the instrument.

Urgent Maintenance: Vestry Roof

During the year, serious concerns have arisen regarding the condition of the vestry roof. Water ingress has led to the partial collapse of ceiling sections in both the choir vestry and the flower vestry.

The underlying issue relates to the absence of effective lead covering, following historic theft, and the subsequent reliance on steel repairs which are now failing. The architect is currently developing options for a full renewal of the roof structure, with costs expected to fall within the five-figure range.

The Building Group is carefully reviewing these proposals with the aim of securing a robust and lasting solution. Given the current condition, this work is considered urgent and should ideally be completed before the onset of the next winter period

Looking Ahead

As the church moves into the coming year, the primary focus will be on initiating the spire restoration project and undertaking the urgent renewal of the vestry roof.

The care and stewardship of this historic church remain a central responsibility. As St John's approaches its 150th anniversary, these efforts are not only about addressing immediate repair needs but also about ensuring that the building is preserved in sound condition for future generations.

Pauline Heath and Mark Gregory

Deanery Synod

Matthew stepped down as area dean in November 2024 and in 2025, Dan Brown, the Vicar of Wadsley, was appointed as his successor.

Deanery Synod usually meets three times each year. In February, it met to learn more about focal ministry as part of the diocesan strategy. The Diocese is keen to encourage lay leaders who work at the local level with ordained leaders like Matthew providing oversight and support.

In May, the synod learned more about healing and wholeness and in September, the Revd Anesia Cook, the Diocesan Racial Justice Officer, came to talk about racial justice.

Though St John's is represented on deanery synod by Alison and Matthew and Cathy Rhodes, its two lay representative slots are currently unoccupied. This year at our APCM we will elect new lay representatives. Among other things, they will elect a new General Synod. Deanery synod representatives are members of the PCC. Please consider standing for the new deanery synod. Talk to Matthew if you would like to know more.

Mission Area

St John's is part of a Mission Area with St Mary's Walkley and St Mark's Broomhill. Matthew is an Associate Priest of St Mary's and St Mark's and in September, following the completion of her curacy, Alison was licensed as Associate Priest of St Mary's as well as St John's. Alison's involvement at St Mary's increased in 2025, strengthening the links that the three churches share. Among other things, they work together on supporting people with dementia and their carers. Members of St John's and St Mark's also join together on zoom for morning prayer on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Electoral Roll Report

A new Church Electoral Roll was prepared for 2025 and was made available two weeks prior to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

At the time of last year's APCM, the Electoral Roll stood at 143 members. Over the past year, we have sadly recorded the loss of three members and one person has moved away. We are, however, pleased to have welcomed 7 new members onto the roll, bringing the current total to **147**.

If you are not yet on the Electoral Roll, we warmly encourage you to consider joining. Being on the roll is more than just an administrative step—it is a way of saying “*this is my church*” and enables you to play an active role in the life and future of our parish.

Why join the Electoral Roll?

- It allows you to vote at the APCM and to stand for positions within church leadership.
- It reflects your commitment to the church community and its mission.
- It helps strengthen our church family by ensuring everyone has a voice and a sense of belonging.

Joining is simple—just complete an Electoral Roll application form. Completed forms can be returned to:

- A member of the clergy
- A churchwarden
- The Church Office
- Or directly to Claire Webber, our Electoral Roll Officer

For further information, please contact Claire Webber.

Inclusion

We are constantly challenged to be more inclusive at St John's and believe that this prompting is of the Holy Spirit. Thank you to all those who challenge and expand our vision of God's kingdom.

The PCC has voted to offer Prayers of Love and Faith to same sex couples as part of our regular services. We were looking forward to offering these in standalone services when this became possible but the Living in Love and Faith process has now been concluded and we will have to wait for a new General Synod before further change is possible. St John's is part of Inclusive Church and Together for the Church of England which campaign for change.

Inclusion is much wider than human sexuality of course and we still have a long way to go in all sorts of areas. For instance, our church building is not as accessible as we would like. We also have much to learn in terms of racial justice but we were glad to welcome the Revd Anesia Cook, the Diocesan Racial Justice Officer, as our preacher in Black History Month.

St John's continues to explore this important area of our life and we are always grateful to those who support this work.

Save Our Spire - Inspire Project Steering Group

We launched the Save Our Spire appeal last March and we're incredibly grateful to all those in our church community who have already supported the appeal. To date nearly £275,000 has been raised towards our £1million fundraising target.

The Inspire Project has four phases; repair and restoration of the tower and spire, installation of a kitchen servery in the West End, reordering of the vestries including a new roof and three new toilets, and upgrading of the church's heating.

The initial priority is the work on the Tower and Spire which continues to show signs of deterioration. In 2025 we undertook our Quinquennial inspection (5 yearly survey of the church building) and found that the work to the spire is increasingly urgent. In the summer last year, we received our faculty (church planning consent) for the proposed works, so we will be able to proceed with tendering for a contractor as soon as we have raised sufficient funding.

In 2025, we also received a significant legacy from the estate of Bryan Beedham, a former member of St John's. The legacy will cover the cost of the kitchen servery. In the autumn a brief was sent to our architects at Buttress and initial plans have been developed. We hope to have a kitchen in St John's by the autumn - this will be a huge achievement for the project and will make a significant impact on how we use our church building.

Fundraising remains a key priority and challenge. Last year we unsuccessfully tendered for a consultant to help us with our fundraising, so a small team from the Steering Group have been working on funding bids. We have four large bids underway at the moment and would appreciate prayers for their success. Alongside our grant fundraising we have had lots of fundraising events - the summer fayre, ticketed events, our SPS events and quizzes. With thanks to all those who have made those events happen.

The Inspire Project Steering Group has continued to meet monthly to make progress on both the project plans and I am grateful to all those involved in the Steering Group. If you'd like to find out how you can get involved or you have a fundraising idea, then do have a chat with me.

Sarah Beardsmore

Steering Group Chair

Children's Ministry

Messy Church



In 2025 we had a Messy Church for Easter and for Harvest. We enjoyed building the church Easter Garden together as well as making our own to take home. For Harvest we reflected on three key points - 'Changes', 'Thankfulness' and 'Collecting and Sharing'; for this we collected foraged fruits and made crumbles to share with family and friends. We discussed the importance of not storing up for ourselves and instead sharing what we have, donating food to our church Harvest collection.



This year we are looking forward to our Easter Craft session on Good Friday.

Toddlers

Our Thursday morning Toddler Group continues to thrive and



we now have around 20 families joining us each week for fun and



friendship. The children have a fantastic time with us exploring the activities, listening to stories and making lots of joyful noise during our song time. Last year we had a mini Christingle during our Christmas session, it was absolutely lovely and enjoyed by all.

Footsteps



In January, the Footsteps children joined in the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch; the weather was not on our side but undeterred we took our binoculars, umbrellas and bird spotting guides outside to see what beautiful birds could be found. Similarly, last year we took part in the Churches Count on Nature Wildflower Survey and had the important job of identifying and recording the wildflowers growing here on our church grounds; the children were amazed at the Oxeye Daisy growing nearly as tall as some of the Junior choristers!



We love having visiting grandchildren of members of our congregation in our Footsteps family.

Choir

I really enjoy my visits to the Monday choir rehearsals to spend time with the Juniors exploring the Bible, church seasons and national events. Last year we acknowledged a combined 'National Refill Day' with 'National Eat Your

Veggies Day' and made rainbow salads in a refillable container. Great feedback was given by the parents for the sudden enthusiasm in their children to willingly eat a salad and providing a ready-made packed lunch for the following day!

Recently we looked deeper into Candlemas following the February All Age service; we prayed a blessing over each other celebrating how unique and wonderful we are. The children were delighted at the prospect of lighting real candles but concerns from one child of "this is not going to end well" did, at the end of the session conclude "that was brilliant!", and I am pleased to report I did not set fire to the clergy vestry that evening!





Board Games Café

This continues to be a success, and we are seeing new families at each event with some travelling for around an hour to get to us (!), as well as solid attendance from our church choir families. We have a huge selection of games on offer and delicious refreshments, including the popular home baked goods kindly provided by one of our volunteers.



Pause

After Easter we are looking forward to launching an after school drop by for secondary age children as they pass by our church on their way home from school. This venture follows our observation of young people who often walk up and down church drive/ Ranmoor Park Road on their journey to and from the local secondary schools. We felt this provided an opportunity to meet these young people by offering a hot drink and a chance to chat as a pause on their journey between school and home. We appreciate your prayers for this and for the young people we will meet.

Lydgate Junior School

Earlier this year we welcomed the Year 4 children of Lydgate Junior School to church to enhance the RE Teaching and Learning on Epiphany. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the church by following the Children's Trail designed in support of our Scissors Paper Stone project. After listening to Matthew explain about the special clothing worn by clergy and choir the children then heard about the history of our beautiful stained-glass windows. We are very much looking forward to welcoming the Year 4 children back to church in March to explore Holy Week and what Easter means to Christians.

Recognise

The Recognise initiative is a national week of recognition from the Church of England for everyone involved in ministry with children, young people and their families. It is a celebration of the hard work and dedication of those serving in this ministry. I am enormously grateful to all the people who volunteer in the children and families ministry here at St John's, building community and nurturing friendships.

Claire Eaton

Music

It has been another musically busy year at St John's. I will report in detail below on the various components of our choir and of our music-making activity.

The **Choristers** have continued to sing a service each Sunday and a Wednesday evensong once a month as well as working towards medals in the RSCM Voice for Life scheme. They have done this with incredible commitment, enthusiasm and good humour. They are consistently a delight to work with and I feel very privileged to do so.

Their attendance is amazingly consistent, with most hardly missing a service or rehearsal. They perform an increasingly wide repertoire in services on Sundays and Wednesday but also take part in lots of extra things. This year they have sung as the gallery choir in a performance of Britten's *St Nicolas* with Sheffield Bach Choir, sang in the Christmas Extravaganza, taken part in a joint evensong with Steel City Choristers and, by the time of the APCM, will have sung Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* accompanied by West Riding Ensemble. It has been an incredibly stable membership over the past year with nobody leaving, albeit one chorister will have moved into the Choral Scholars at Easter. This will leave 17 choristers, 1 Year 9, 3 Year 8s, 2 Year 7s, 5 Year 6s, 4 Year 5s and 2 Year 4s, which is as well-balanced an age profile as we have had and augurs very well for the coming years. Our 2 Year 3s will move from the Juniors to the Choristers after Easter, boosting the number to 19.

We try to keep a good balance between services where they sing on their own (or take the top line along with the lower parts) and where they sing with the excellent adult sopranos. This enables them to sing a wider repertoire than they otherwise might do and to learn by example.

The **Junior Choir** have continued to sing two services per month. We had a large number join last year and they have matured into a very strong group. Once the Year 3s have moved up to the Choristers, that leaves 6 Year 2s and 2 Year 1s. It's exciting to know that we already have the basis of our Choristers for the next 4 or 5 years. Recruitment in the coming year will focus on (next year's) Year 1 and 2 as that has consistently been the best route for us to recruit children into the choir.

The **Pop-up Choir** has continued to run once a month during term time. It remains a great way of giving children the experience of singing in a choir - either as a stepping stone to joining or as something to take part in occasionally.

We now have five **Choral Scholars**, three in Year 10 and two in Year 13. They continue to sing alongside the adults, learning from the experienced and excellent singers we have in our ranks, as well as having one-on-one tuition. They make an excellent contribution to the choir.



Georgina Hulse stepped down as Chorister Tutor this year, and Katie Collin and Pete Taylor have taken on the role as a job share. Katie continues to rehearse with the Juniors and we have had a variety of people providing activities for the Juniors alongside their singing and we are very grateful to them. Thanks also to Jacky Dakin for organising robes and choir pay, and to Sarah Beardsmore and her team of chaperones without whom our work with our young singers would not be possible. We are also grateful to all the families of our young singers who are the unsung heroes of any choral foundation.

Mabel has continued in her role of **Organ Scholar** and makes an excellent contribution to the services she plays for.

We are also very fortunate to have an outstanding team of singers in the **Adult Choir**. The standard continues to rise and the singing, which is always of a high quality, is often exceptional. I am most grateful for their hard work and commitment.

There have been numerous highlights over the last year:

- i) In August, the choir spent a weekend in the Northeast, giving a concert on Holy Island, singing the Sunday morning service at St Aidan's, Bamburgh and Evensong at Newcastle Cathedral. Again, we took a huge group of Adults, Choristers and Juniors. It was a very enjoyable weekend and our singing was greatly appreciated wherever we went.



- ii) In October we welcomed Patrick Russill to give a conducting workshop with 4 young conductors from around Sheffield, including Joe from our choir. This was an enormously rewarding event and we will be looking to do similar things in the future.

- iii) In December we again held our "Christmas Extravaganza" with Stannington Brass Band. Again the event sold out and the performance was excellent. The choir (including Choristers and Juniors) really enjoy working with the band (and they with us) and we look forward to the next one in December 2026.

- iv) On Passion Sunday, the choir gave a liturgical performance of Leighton's Crucifixus Pro Nobis (sung by the adults) and Pergolesi's Stabat Mater (sung by the choristers, accompanied by West Riding Ensemble).

- v) All of this, of course, in addition to a busy regular pattern of services and many special occasions such as the Advent Procession, Christmas Carol Service, Epiphany Procession and the many services in Holy Week.

The whole choir; adults, Choral Scholars, Choristers and Juniors are an absolute delight to work with - I genuinely look forward to every rehearsal and every service. I would like to thank them for their dedication, skill and commitment. I would also like to thank Derek Grover, Julian Gunn, Joe Hutchinson, and Peter Heginbotham for their excellent playing, conducting, wisdom and support.

Our monthly **Organ Recitals** have continued this year, including recitals given by various distinguished guests and members of our home team of organists. We have also hosted many concerts given by schools, choirs and other outside organisations.

Philip Collin, Director of Music.

Flowers

Flowers in Church help to enhance our worship and also remind us of the beauty of God's creation. The flowers are arranged by volunteers and each volunteer normally commits to providing and arranging one pedestal of flowers for two consecutive weeks by the pulpit in Church, on average once a year.

At the major festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas we arrange flowers for two pedestals, the font and the church porch.

Prior to Easter we asked ,via the church news sheet, for donations towards the purchase of lilies in memory of someone who had died and these were incorporated in our two Easter pedestal arrangements. This year we provided arrangements of lillies for the large arrangements, baskets of spring flowers for the window sills and tete a tete bulbs in the porch.

Our harvest flowers incorporated sunflowers which were arranged in pumpkins.

At Christmas we used red carnations, gold pine cones and stars together with holly and green foliage from our gardens to create a vertical design in a red velvet covered bowl.

As part of St Johns Eco-church and the wider church's Net Zero action plan, since September 2023 we have been floral foam (Oasis) free and we try to used flowers which are sustainably sourced when possible.

Jackie Lowe has stepped down as a coordinator of the church flower group. We would like to thank Jackie for her hard work over many years. Ruth Whaites has kindly agreed to help coordinate the flowers in the coming year.

If you would be interested in helping with church flowers please talk to Sandra or Ruth - no experience is necessary as we are happy to help you get started.

Thank you to everyone who has helped to enhance the beauty of our building with wonderful flower arrangements in the past year.

Sandra Green

Study Groups

We have continued to run regular Bible Study groups this year. In the summer term we continued with our regular fortnightly meeting where we looked at the bible readings for the previous Sunday. This group was run by Rev Peter Das, Rev Alison Wragg, Rowan Ireland and Sandra Green.

Since September we have run a term-time fortnightly study group at the Vicarage. It is based on the Bible readings for the previous Sunday. Our discussion is usually led by Rev Matthew Rhodes and we end with Compline. This group has generally been well attended.

We have run two Lent Groups this year, on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. We have met in the Vicarage and the evenings have been led by Rev Matthew Rhodes, Rev Alison Wragg and Sandra Green. We have used 'Meeting God in John' by David F. Ford as the basis of our reflections. This has provided a rich source of material for discussion and the two groups have been very well attended. Thank you to Matthew and Cathy for their hospitality.

We have found that in reading, reflecting, discussing and listening to each other, we have learned much which has helped us to grow in faith and get to know members of our Church community better.

Our study groups are small but very friendly. We would love to welcome more members - if you would be interested in finding out more about our groups, please do speak to one of us.

Sandra Green

Wednesday Lunch Club

The Wednesday Lunch Club continues to meet weekly throughout the year, with short breaks at Christmas, Easter, and the end of summer. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated and committed team of volunteers who make the club possible.

Our cooks, helpers, form a fantastic team who faithfully turn up each week to prepare and serve delicious, homemade meals. Their reliability and care are at the heart of everything we do. In addition, Rosie Gregory and Trudie Kelly provide invaluable pastoral support alongside the clergy, ensuring that our members feel supported not just socially, but emotionally and spiritually too.

Special thanks to Anne Ward who for many years has organised the rotas and staffing of the lunch club. Anne has stepped down from this role and thankfully continues to help us on the rota as helper. Thank you to Barbara Wozencroft who now organises the rota each term.

This year has also seen significant achievements in training and standards. Twelve members of our rota completed Level 2 Food Safety training, and a further seventeen completed Level 1



training. We were also delighted to receive another inspection from the Environmental Health Officer and to be awarded the highest possible rating of Level 5. This is a true testament to the commitment, diligence, and teamwork of everyone involved.

The Lunch Club committee, which is accountable to the PCC, meets three times a year to oversee the running and development of the club. We are very grateful to have received continued grant support for 2025/26 from Sheffield Council, which plays a vital role in helping us manage the increasing costs of food and transport. At the time of writing the report we await the outcome of our 2026-27 council grant application.

Transport remains a key part of enabling many of our members to attend. We are especially thankful to our volunteer driver, John, who generously gives his time each week to drive the community transport bus. To ensure we can continue to offer this service safely and sustainably, we are now looking to recruit a volunteer transport chaperone to assist passengers on and off the bus and provide support during journeys.



We were also delighted this year when the Ranmoor Friery kindly brought a box of biscuits for all attendees at Christmas and then provided fish and chips for one of our sessions, which was greatly enjoyed by all and a real treat for our members. Building on this, it is one of our objectives to strengthen links with local businesses who may be able to support the Lunch Club in similar ways in the future.

Our Lunch Club provides a vital lifeline for many elderly members of our community, offering far more than just a meal. It creates a warm and welcoming environment where people can connect, reducing loneliness and improving overall wellbeing.



Key benefits of the Lunch Club include:

- **Reducing social isolation:** Many of our members live alone and may otherwise go days without meaningful interaction. The club offers friendship, laughter, and regular companionship.
- **Promoting physical and mental wellbeing:** Nutritious meals, light activities, and conversation help keep both body and mind active.
- **Building a stronger community:** The club fosters belonging, friendship, and mutual support.

- **Providing practical support:** We offer signposting to local services, health advice, and transport assistance, helping members remain independent.
- **Creating enjoyable experiences:** From celebrations to guest speakers and activities, we ensure each week is engaging and uplifting. Running the Lunch Club, each week allows us to continue making a real and meaningful difference—providing a safe, warm, and friendly place where people feel valued and connected.

We are always pleased to welcome new members, and transport can be arranged locally. If you, or someone you know, would like to attend, please contact Claire in the parish office.

Claire Webber

Eco Church

This is our seventh year as an A Rocha Eco Church! We are one of 15 churches with a Silver award in Sheffield Diocese, where 85 of our 196 churches are Eco Churches. Our Silver award in 2021 was based on a survey of parish life in our Worship/Teaching, Community Engagement and Congregational Lifestyle. The survey also includes Buildings and



Energy, and care of Land around the church and Parish Centre. In October



2024 a new survey raised the bar for awards, and the Buildings section is especially challenging for heritage buildings like St John's. In the longer term, our Inspire building project includes increasing sustainability and reducing our carbon footprint.



Since the last APCM update we've continued to revisit the survey, building on actions which led to our Silver award. We have a renewable energy tariff and ongoing changes include switching to LED light bulbs. We hope a 'Quick Wins' grant

from the CofE Net Zero programme via the Diocese will help with that. For Worship and Teaching in the building, we pray regularly for God's Creation and mark Creationtide and Harvest in our liturgies and services, including the music. Thank you to the prayer team and Philip for this. We're also very thankful for the hard work of the Flower Arranging team so ably led by Sandra Green and Jackie Lowe. They have done a wonderful job moving away

from floral foam and getting creative! Who could forget the compostable pumpkin containers for Harvest Festival flowers last year, pictured below. This also supports a General Synod Motion in February on sustainable flowers, which was passed with enthusiasm. Please consider joining in to help with this great work. Training will be given!



Last year we reported on digging the Parish Centre garden pond, which coincided with a long dry season of no rain! It has now filled with water, with some new planting round it and we hope wildlife will appreciate it! In the church grounds, the Coronation year crab apple tree is thriving and supporting pollinators and birds, and we will repeat No Mow May again. Our bee orchids still pop up each year, a small miracle only seen since we changed the mowing plan.

Over the years John Green has written excellent and varied eco-articles and book reviews for Inspire parish magazine. These help us learn more about environmental issues and caring for God’s Creation, to support our congregation and community to live more sustainably. Topics include history, economics, politics and the Big Plastic Count! Thank you to Philip Walshaw as magazine editor for his support. We are now printing varied items including monthly Eco Tips from A Rocha, and John is taking a break



from the articles. Thank you to John for all his hard work on this and all our Eco Church efforts. The Eco Church Group is also really grateful to Children’s Ministry lead, Claire Eaton and her wider team for great support, with creation care



as part of Sunday teaching. Last May our junior choir had fun exploring nature in the church grounds. In June the Footsteps children had a wild time outdoors with John Green, becoming nature detectives for the Caring for God’s Acre Churches Count on Nature survey. They spotted and recorded all sorts of wildflowers with excited shouts of “Look at this one!” and “What’s that called?” – and some of the ox-eye daisies were as tall as our junior choristers! Our October Animal service celebrated the animal kingdom with a fantastic rainbow made by the children (photos below). In January we did the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch.



All this work helps us to fulfil our calling as Christians in the Fifth Mark of Mission to *'Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth'*, in a time where the nature and climate emergencies grow ever more urgent. With prayer and action, we are working to address these. Please join us if you would like to help!



Cathy Rhodes and John Green

Ranmoor Ringers

People:

Our permanent band is 16 ringers, and we have welcomed three new ringers to our band this year. Our learners have progressed very well and are now regular Sunday Service ringers and tackling method ringing.

Ringings:

The numbers available for ringing have been increasing and, on some Sundays, we have had 16 ringers. Practise nights are generally well attended and have been started with a practice from 7 to 7.30 for improvers. We are steadily building up our method repertoire and have progressed to more Triples (7) and Major (8) methods on 8 bells. Rounds and call changes on the 10 bells is now a Sunday morning standard.

Weddings this year have been more than in previous years and we are looking at only 5 for this season. We have managed to cover all the weddings, but weekday weddings do rely more heavily on our retired contingent. We have given our wedding fees to the SOS fund and also donated Peal fees to the fund.

We have recently started quarter peals on a Sunday evening before the service for our improvers to help their progress. We have had no enquiries for Peals yet and will keep them to a minimum due to the residential area we are in. We have had 3 teams of visiting ringers - all of very different abilities. The simulator is now up and running again and this has enabled us to ring with the bells silent (tied) on a Saturday morning to help advance the learners.

Events:

The Heritage Open Day - 2025 was a very quiet affair with very few people visiting the tower. We had an outing this year to Wortley, Bolderstone and Bradfield, although it was the wettest day of the year, it was still very enjoyable.

The summer barbeque at the home of 2 of our ringers was a great evening and hopefully they can be persuaded to do this again.

We had food and quiz events in the Parish centre for various occasions which were excellent.

The future:

It would be good to be able to ring more different methods, but this is dependent on available ringers and longer touches on the basic major methods stretching into 9 and 10 bell methods. Striking is very important as this gives us pride in our ringing knowing that what we are ringing is well struck and sounds good. A number of our parishioners might not be able to tell when it's not good but certainly those with some musical knowledge will notice. As we currently have no volunteers for Tower Captain, I have agreed to carry on as Captain with lots of help from other ringers to share the position out.

I would like to thank all the ringers and committee for the support over the last year and hopefully for the coming year. Ringing is an enjoyable and rewarding art and long may it remain this way.

Richard Noble March 2026

Report of the Pastoral Care Group

The Pastoral Care Group has continued to meet during 2025.

Members of the Pastoral Care Group during 2025 have been: Janet Atkinson (chair until February 2025)), Liz Dwyer, Rosemary Farkas, Mary Grover, Trudie Kelly, Gillian Stanley, Barbara Wozencroft, Revd Matthew Rhodes and Revd, Alison Wragg (Pastoral Care Lead from February 2025). Revd Peter Das has also attended some meetings (until April 2025).

I would like to thank Janet Atkinson for her excellent leadership of the group over many years and to Revd Peter Das for the pastoral support he gave to our congregation during his time as curate at St John's.

Roles and responsibilities

- Mary Grover and Liz Dwyer acted on requests for short-term support offering meals to families or individuals.
- Barbara Wozencroft organised a transport rota throughout the year and responds to any new requests for people needing help to get to church services.
- Trudie Kelly provided a very important link with the Wednesday lunch club and also sends cards to members of the congregation who are hospitalised or unwell for periods of time.
- Rosemary Farkas provided professional guidance and insight on issues relating to pastoral care
- Gillian Stanley kept in touch or visited members of St Johns who are no longer able to attend services

Areas of pastoral care covered in 2025

The congregation of St John's is a naturally pastoral community and the informal support that so many members of the congregation offer to each other continues to be a vital part of the life of

our church. This is often quietly undertaken without any formal recognition or mention: e.g. lifts to hospital, visits and ongoing care and support. The pastoral care group has continued to provide a framework to ensure that as far as possible we can respond to situations when needed and support the clergy in their pastoral role.

The Wednesday lunch club continues to be well supported: now serving on average more than 22 meals a week, Thanks to all the volunteers and in particular to Barbara Wozencroft who organises the volunteer rota and help at the lunch club. The funding towards the Lunch Club from the City Council has continued during 2025 and is a vital contribution towards the cost of transport and other activities.

In August 2025 a decision was taken not to offer lunches over the summer holiday period as the uptake in 2024 had been smaller than in previous years. We kept in touch over this period with some of our members who attended the Wednesday morning service of Holy Communion which takes place in the Parish Centre at 11.30. The service was followed with coffee, cake and a time of fellowship together.

Home Communion continued to be supported by clergy to members of our congregation who are unable to get to church. A communion service takes place each month in all three of the care homes in the parish, including special services to mark Christmas, Easter and Harvest. We are grateful to all who are involved in this important ministry. Each resident in our care homes receives a Christmas and Easter card from St John's which is organised by the Dementia Core Group across our mission area.

We continue to be grateful to Trudie Kelly and Pat Thompson who send cards on the first anniversaries of weddings and baptisms which take place at St John's, maintaining contact with that younger group of people and their families.

We are grateful to Wendy Weeks and Janet Anker for organising the monthly social lunch following the Sunday morning service. This has continued to be well attended and much appreciated by all who attend. They enjoy a simple but delicious lunch followed by a variety of popular games and jigsaws. (See Sunday Social Report)

We should also like to record again our particular thanks to Claire Webber who continues to play such a significant role in relation to pastoral care by listening, supporting people, providing practical help and referring requests on to the pastoral care group. She plays a particularly important role in guiding us with any issues associated with Safeguarding and Data Protection.

Looking Ahead

Matthew and I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone at St John's who is involved in offering pastoral care to our congregation, making it the caring community that it is.

We live in an ever changing world, therefore the way in which we offer pastoral care to our church community must align itself with those changes. As Pastoral Care Lead I will continue to co-ordinate the pastoral care we offer at St John's. I am working with Revd Shan Rush, Assistant Priest at St Mark's Church in Broomhill to find a way that pastoral care can be resourced across the three church's in our Mission Area. This may in the future include a DBS check, safeguarding

training and taking advantage of the excellent Dementia training being offered in the Mission Area. We are also mindful of the need to be inclusive in the way we work and ensure pastoral care is available to everyone in our congregation, from the newborn babe and their family to the most senior members of our congregation.

I encourage you to continue to look out for each other and do have a chat with myself or Matthew if you feel a member of our congregation is in need of some extra support... we are here to listen and act on your instincts.

Alison Wragg on behalf of the Pastoral Care Group. March 2026

Dementia Matters

The Dementia Core Group comprising clergy and members of St Mary's, St Mark's and St John's churches has continued to meet to oversee dementia awareness raising activities in our 3 churches. While planning is undertaken by the group its decisions are individualised by each church and carried out according to their particular ethos. With the change in clergy responsibilities following the appointment of Beth Keith as vicar to St Mark's we welcomed Alison Wragg as clergy member of the Core Group for both St Mary's and St John's. Shan Rush will remain clergy representative for St Mark's.

Christmas and Easter cards are designed by each church in turn but are sent by all 3 churches to care home residents in their parishes. They are designed to be dementia friendly. At harvest time the regular "in home" services are made that bit more dementia friendly to enable residents with dementia to participate more easily.

Starting in 2024 St John's set up a dementia reflection area in the side chapel during Dementia Action Week in May. This allowed those who wished to spend time in reflection on dementia using the prayers and poems displayed there. In 2025 St Mary's and St Mark's, using the same prayers and poems as St John's, set up their own dementia displays in their churches.

This year we at John's are offering to help local Catholic, Methodist and Congregational Churches, all using the same prayers and poems, to set up their own reflection areas. New prayers and poems will be included in the displays this year for all churches. C of E churches further into the diocese are about to receive information via the diocesan newsletter about how to set up their own dementia reflection areas if they wish to.

During the autumn Grace Stead from Enrichment for the Elderly led two of her 3 session Dementia Stars training courses one hosted by St Mary's and one by St John's. 12 members of the St John's congregation have now completed the course and have been awarded the Gold badge and certificate for commitment to developing their understanding of dementia.

This May during Dementia Action Week Grace Stead will be leading a training session in St John's parish centre for people who have become involved with dementia through their pastoral care commitments. After this there will be an opportunity to visit the reflection area in the church. For those who have not yet done so Grace will be repeating her Dementia Stars course in the parish centre in June.

Last summer members of St John's congregation took part in the annual collection for the Alzheimer's Society at Morrison's supermarket and Wendy took on the (not very daunting!) family 3K Red Shoe Walk along the river at Meadowhall to raise money for the Sheffield Hospitals Dementia Fund. The money raised (£680 plus gift aid) is ring fenced for dementia and will be used to improve facilities for people with dementia in our hospitals.

Wendy continues to provide support in church for people with dementia who otherwise would not be able to come.

Wendy Weeks, March 2026.

The Sunday Social

The Sunday Social continues to meet monthly, generally on the fourth Sunday of the month, in the parish centre after the morning service. We recently celebrated our third birthday. There are about 18 regular attenders who enjoy a freshly prepared lunch followed by Scrabble, puzzles and jigsaws before enjoying a cup of tea and homemade cake and departure home between 3-3.15pm. The Sunday Social has space for a few more "guests" so if you are of any age, come to the Sunday morning service and live by yourself you would be very welcome, please contact Wendy Weeks or Claire Webber.

Social Justice Committee

During the past twelve months this group has served to keep the various groups working to define the purpose of the group, to share the different kinds of work we do and to involve the congregation more fully in the way parish charitable grants are disbursed. We have not met often but have met our goals.

1. Consulting the congregation about the church's charitable giving

Each year we disburse 5% of our income after the Common Fund has been allocated. In 2024-we disbursed £4,886 to 12 charities: 10% to organisations supporting the work of our church and the Disaster Emergency Committee; 30% to Overseas Charities, 30% to National Charities and 30% to Sheffield charities. The 10% is directed towards the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers and A Rocha, the remaining being allocated to the DEC.

This year we, for the first, time, consulted the congregation about where they would like us to direct our giving. During October we shared the names of charities suggested by members of the congregation on a display board and in a large print booklet. These charities were uncategorised. Each member of the congregation was invited to put their name under the three charities that they most strongly wished us to support. Matthew and Claire then used the congregation's recommendations to present to the PCC on at the 17th November PCC.

Charities commended by congregational members: Church's Action Against Poverty, Medecins Sans Frontières, Mencap, PACT, Sanctuary Sheffield, The Shannon Trust, Sheffield Young Carers, The Snowdrop Project, Bluebell Wood, Roundabout

On the basis of this consultation the following grants were made from our annual Tithe:

Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers	125
A Rocha	300
Medecins Sans Frontieres	400
Bluebelle Wood Childrens Hospice	400
Roundabout	400
PACT - Parents and Children with Cancer	400
The Shannon Trust	400
Sheffield Young Carers	400
Zest	400
Sheffield Mencap and Gateways	400
Disaster Emergency Committee	455
	£4080

2. The name and purposes of the group

- It was requested that we clarify the name and purposes of the group. After a discussion there was a general consensus to retain the present title of the group.
- Though the title may seem unspecific, it still seemed to be a useful umbrella term to cover the issues that the group wishes to address.

From its earliest days, the group has concerned itself not only with how we support individual charities. An early title for the group was ‘the mission group’. This indicated that the group would have various purposes: to promote advocacy for the vulnerable, to increase awareness of the reasons why people are vulnerable and to inform ourselves and the congregation about the contexts of the charities we might support.

- In order to help us develop a coherent and collectively agreed framework in which the group should operate, Matthew Rhodes offered to draft a working paper which would guide us when drawing up a set of agreed goals for the group. We agreed to discuss this with each other when we receive it and bring our thoughts to a further discussion.

3. ECO Church: John Green

‘Some of our goals have been realised. We have created the pond. We held the wild flower survey in June. However, there are important areas we need to develop. We should seek to connect more closely with the east end of the city and engage with wider community. Because we need to apply for our silver assessment from A Rocha, we are seeking help from Diocesan staff to help us with the questionnaire. We need to address how we engage with the wider community.’ (See separate report on ECO Church)

4. The Children’s Society

Thank you very much to everyone at St John's who has collected at home for the Children's Society.

This year we have raised a marvellous £576.51 plus Gift Aid to help some of the most vulnerable children in our society.

St John's have also sent £209.28 plus Gift Aid to The Children's Society from the donations given at the Christingle Service.

If you would like to help boost this total even further next year, please do contact me for a collection box or a direct form to make monthly/annual donations. Thank you.

Jackie Lowe 0114 2303999 jackielowe22@btconnect.com

5. Support for Weston Park Cancer Charity

We continue to support Weston Park Cancer Charity by holding an annual coffee morning after the morning service at the end of September or beginning of October.

In 2025, this event raised **£450** to support the work of the charity. This cause is particularly close to the hearts of many in our congregation, as several members are currently undergoing cancer treatment or have been treated in recent years.

This annual event is a simple but meaningful way in which our church community comes together to offer practical support and solidarity.

6. Baby Basics

We are pleased to support Baby Basics through the collection of knitted items and essential baby supplies for families in need. Members of the congregation generously donate knitted clothing, nappies and other baby essentials.

Mary Grover

Burngreave Foodbank

Year ending 31 October 2025

Who we are Burngreave Foodbank became an independent charity in October 2024, operating from two centres in Burngreave and Darnall. Our aim is the prevention and relief of poverty through emergency food provision, practical support, and advice signposting for people in crisis.

We are hosted free of charge by local churches, representing **£28,970 per year in in-kind premises support**.

The scale of need Demand for emergency food support remains very high.

- **4,275 foodbank vouchers fulfilled**
- **8,090 people supported**
 - 5,847 adults
 - 2,244 children
- **80% of activity at Burngreave centre, 20% at Darnall**

Referrals reflect the impact of rising living costs, benefit delays, health issues, debt, housing problems and income disruption. Nearly **200 referral partners** worked with us this year.

Volunteers and staff Our work depends heavily on volunteers.

- **5 part-time staff**
- **~45 regular volunteers**
- **5,540 volunteer hours given**
 - In-kind value: **£74,513**

Volunteer contribution exceeds staff cost in value terms and is essential to our operation.

Food supply pressures The balance between donated and purchased food has shifted significantly.

- **16.2 tonnes donated** (value ~£28,300)
- **28 tonnes purchased**

→ 63% of all food distributed had to be bought

This reflects both rising demand and the need to provide balanced parcels and meet dietary needs when donations are insufficient.

Advice support that tackles root causes

Alongside food provision, we fund specialist advice delivered by **Citizens Advice Sheffield**.

Since August 2022:

- **386 people supported**
- **£398,789 secured in financial gains**
- **£5.65 gained for every £1 invested**
- For **36% of clients**, advice resolved the issue that led to foodbank use

This service is a high-impact, preventative intervention, not just an add-on.

Financial position

- **Total income: £190,594**
(includes **£108,002 one-off transfer** from previous fiscal host)
- **Total expenditure: £127,802**
 - Staff: £59,874
 - Running costs (including food): £30,349
 - Citizens Advice grant: £31,717
- **Reported surplus: £62,792**

However:

Without the one-off transfer, the foodbank ran at an underlying deficit of ~£45,210

Regular income did **not** cover operating costs.

Reserves

- Year-end reserves: **£62,792** (unrestricted)
- Meets trustees' policy of three months' running costs
- But largely due to historic funds, not current sustainability

Key challenges

1. Continued very high demand for support
2. Majority of food now needs to be purchased
3. Core income insufficient to meet costs
4. Increasing complexity of client needs
5. Heavy reliance on volunteers and in-kind support

Priorities for 2025-26

- Strengthen and professionalise fundraising (fundraiser appointed)
- Secure sustainable income for food purchasing, staffing, and advice support
- Continue integrated model: food + advice + strong referral partnerships

Summary and Thanks - Burngreave Foodbank is **well-run, impactful, and deeply valued**, supporting over 8,000 people this year. However, rising demand and costs mean the foodbank is **not financially sustainable on current income** and must significantly strengthen fundraising to continue delivering this vital service to our community.

Our deepest thanks once again to the generous donors who continue to support us so faithfully. St John's remains one of our top donors and truly is helping us to keep going in these challenging times! We are deeply grateful for your ongoing and generous support.



Inspire Magazine

INSPIRE

The parish magazine continues to flourish under the editorship of Philip Walshaw. It is posted out, emailed or hand delivered, with the help of Janet and Malcolm Anker, Chris Cooper, Sue Coombe, Norma Barnsley and Alan and Pauline Heath. Copies are available inside Church and in the Parish Centre. Whilst some people

prefer reading the digital version, there are many who still prefer the hard copy.

The number of advertisers has stayed fairly constant at eight/nine, with two lost and two gained over the last year. The cost of the magazine has been kept at a suggested donation of £1.50 and is now printed in-house by Claire Webber and is in full colour. This year, the magazine has made a surplus of £7, with special thanks to Claire, whose time is not accounted for but is greatly appreciated. The magazine still represents good value and it is an important part of the Church's mission to reach out to the community. Regular features such as the *Quiz*, *Eco Church*, *Restaurant Review* and *Rambling On* prove to be popular amongst the readership.

A special thank you goes to John Green who has provided many interesting and thought-provoking Eco Church articles over the years, but has now had to give this up due to other commitments. Many thanks to Roy Stanley for his entertaining Restaurant Reviews and long may they continue! Articles for inclusion in the magazine are always welcomed from anyone who feels they have something to offer - it makes my job a lot easier to fill out 36 pages per month!

Philip Walshaw

Christian Aid

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2025

The 2025 appeal was for help to those affected by climate change and famine in Guatemala, and to support them in their efforts to grow their food and their businesses. We featured Aurelia, who with the help and advice which Christian Aid was able to bring, through their partner Cong-coop, was enabled to support communities to return to adopt agroecological approaches that conserve their land, culture and livelihood. Agroecology, put simply, is farming in a sustainable way that works with, not against, nature. By working with Congcoop, Aurelia’s gained the skills and knowledge to cultivate native seeds that are better suited to the changing climate. She’s now producing her own organic fertiliser, creating nurseries, constructing rainwater collection systems, and making nutritious food and medicine for her chickens. Thanks to Aurelia’s ever-growing knowledge base, she’s now cultivating cacao, sugarcane, cinnamon, corn and pineapples.



Here at St Johns a wonderful week of events was organised to highlight the need for generous giving. Thanks go to Claire Webber, our administrator, who printed the publicity, to Pauline Heath, who helped co-ordinate everything, to those who joined the sponsored Parish Walk and raised £260, to a team of musicians organised by Sarah Beardsmore who gave an inspiring concert, and many people who assisted at stalls for the Big Brekkie which made 1015.55! Food and drinks made £128.92, Jams £104.50, Books £140, Cakes £204, Plants £244.15, Tombola £18.00 and cards £91.98. And those who collected the envelopes from houses raised £278.76. In addition, donations were received through the envelopes and the card machines.

The total for the week was a magnificent £2,636.66!

So, to all of you who took part, supported, and gave so generously we say a very big “THANK YOU”.

Janet and Malcolm Anker



Safeguarding

At St John's, we remain deeply committed to making our church a place where everyone feels safe, respected, and valued. We want our church community to be welcoming and secure for people of all ages and backgrounds.

As part of the Church of England, we follow the safeguarding principles and guidance issued by the House of Bishops, ensuring that both children and adults are protected from harm.

Child Protection and Speaking Up

We take child protection very seriously. Every child has the right not only to be safe, but to feel safe. All activities involving children are carefully planned, with DBS checks, risk assessments, and parental consent procedures firmly in place.

If something doesn't feel right, we encourage you to speak up. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and no concern is ever too small. You can speak to me directly, or to a member of the clergy, a churchwarden, or any PCC member. All concerns are handled with care, sensitivity, and appropriate confidentiality.

Adult Safeguarding

We are equally committed to safeguarding vulnerable adults, including those at risk due to ill health, disability, age, or experiences such as domestic abuse. This includes recognising and responding to signs of neglect, exploitation, emotional harm, or coercion.

Church should always be a place of support and safety. If you or someone you know needs help, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Training, Oversight, and Good Practice

- Our Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually by the PCC, with safeguarding remaining a standing agenda item throughout the year.
- As your independent Parish Safeguarding Officer, I continue to undertake regular training and keep up to date with safeguarding guidance and best practice.
- All church officers—including clergy, wardens, PCC members, and group leaders—complete safeguarding training appropriate to their roles.
- Risk assessments are carried out for all church activities. DBS checks are kept up to date, first aid training is maintained, and we follow best practice in the use of media and personal information.
- Registration forms are in place for both children's and adult groups, and we respond promptly to any changes in safeguarding legislation.

Supporting Volunteers

This year, I have developed and introduced a structured job description format for volunteers. This helps protect both those who generously serve and the church in its duty of care, providing

clarity, accountability, and consistency across all departments. This framework is now being used throughout the church.

Thank you to everyone in our church community for the part you play in keeping St John's a safe and welcoming place. Whether through training, vigilance, or simply being willing to speak up, your support makes a real difference.

Claire Webber
Parish Safeguarding Officer



Speak up confidentially
Contact Claire Webber
safeguarding@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk
0114 230 1199
www.stjohnsranmoor.or.uk/safeguarding

Occasional Offices



WEDDINGS

Weddings continue to be a deeply meaningful part of life at St John's, marking significant moments in the lives of couples and their families. Many who choose to marry here become part of our church community, with around half joining the Electoral Roll as they prepare for their special day. Others come to St John's through a qualifying connection—perhaps having lived in the parish previously, or through family ties such as parents

or grandparents who were married here.

In 2025, we held eight weddings, fewer than we would usually expect. This reflected a wider pattern across the Church of England following the COVID-19 pandemic, as financial pressures and uncertainty led many couples to delay or scale back their plans. For 2026, we currently have five weddings booked. We recognise that the presence of scaffolding around the building during essential works may have discouraged some couples, and we fully understand



how important the setting is when planning a wedding day.

Even so, we remain encouraged by the enquiries and conversations already taking place for the coming years. St John's continues to be a place that couples feel drawn to for its beauty, heritage, and the warmth of its welcome.



As always, we offer our heartfelt congratulations and support to every couple who chooses to marry here. Whether planning a large celebration or a simple, intimate service, we are here to walk alongside couples and their families at every step of this special journey.

Funerals

Our church is privileged to support families at times of bereavement by offering both Funeral Services and Services of Thanksgiving. These may take place in church, at the crematorium, or at the graveside. In addition, Matthew and Alison are available to lead cremation or graveside funerals where a church service is not required.

We work closely with local funeral directors to ensure that families receive clear guidance, sensitive pastoral care, and practical support when arranging a funeral. Anyone who lives within the parish is entitled to have their funeral service led by a priest in church, whether or not they were regular worshippers.

The Parish Office plays a key role by:

- Helping families make initial arrangements
- Organising a visit from a priest to discuss the service
- Offering guidance on hymns, readings, and music
- Ensuring ongoing pastoral support before and after the funeral

We also support those who wish to plan their own funeral in advance, which can be a great comfort to relatives later on.

The cost of a funeral varies according to the choices made with the funeral director, and the fee for the minister's involvement is usually a small part of the overall expense.

During 2025, 15 funerals were conducted through St John's.

Through these ministries, the church seeks to offer compassion, dignity, and hope to all who come to us at a time of loss.

BAPTISMS

During the past year, 14 baptisms took place at St John's. These joyful occasions have been important moments for families as they give thanks for the gift of a child and commit to bringing them up within the life of the Church.

Baptism services continue to provide a valuable opportunity to welcome new families into contact with St John's, many of whom have little previous connection with church. Through preparation meetings, the service itself, and ongoing invitation to church life, we seek to offer a warm welcome, pastoral support, and an introduction to the Christian faith.

We give thanks for these opportunities to share in significant life events and to build relationships within our parish community.

Social Events

The Committee at St John’s Church, Ranmoor, has actively convened throughout 2025, centering its efforts on strengthening the social fabric of the church community and extending outreach to the wider Ranmoor Parish and Diocese. The primary initiative this year is the *Scissors, Paper, Stone* programme led by Mary Grover, which serves as a lead-up to the 150th anniversary celebrations of the original (pre-fire) St John’s building. Committee members have played key roles in supporting this programme, which includes exhibitions, talks, concerts, and other community events.



Key Events and Programmes - 2025

2025 has been a vibrant and memorable year, filled with activity, creativity, and community spirit.



Scissors, Paper, Stone brought people together through a rich variety of events including engaging talks, a lively Ranmoor party, an inspiring art exhibition, and popular guided walking tours that encouraged people to explore and connect in new ways.



During Christian Aid Week in May, the Committee played an active role in organising and supporting events that reflected the church’s strong commitment to social justice and global responsibility. Big Breakfast and table top sale, talent evening to name but a few events. (See CA report)

ST JOHN’S CHURCH, RANMOOR
Sunday 6th July 2025
12.30pm-4pm

Lots of fun for all the family.
Bouncy Castle, Stalls, roast pork sandwiches,
traditional crafts, lots of Entertainment,
Bell Tower tours, Music, Ice-cream
& so much more.

Info:
administrator@stjohn
sranmoor.org.uk
0114 230 1199



All proceeds
to our SOS
Appeal

Our Music Programme continued to flourish throughout the year, with a range of events that showcased local talent and enriched the cultural life of the church and wider community. (See Philips music report)



A series of Social Event Talks proved especially popular. Highlights included fascinating talks on *Sheffield Gangs* and *Scenic Britain by Rail*, alongside a joyful VE Day celebration complete with a traditional afternoon tea. The much-loved Summer Fair was another standout success, raising an impressive £3,000 for the Save Our Spire appeal.



Leadership and Membership

As the programme continues to grow in ambition and impact, the group is now seeking a new Chair and warmly welcomes new members who would like to help shape and deliver future events. This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved, meet new people, and play a meaningful role in the life of the church community.

Looking Ahead to 2026

The Committee remains committed to building community, supporting church projects, and delivering a varied and engaging programme of events.

Plans for 2026 are already underway and promise more of the activities people have come to enjoy:

- Social evenings and talks
- Afternoon teas

All proceeds from these events will go towards the Save Our Spire appeal, helping to secure the future of our much-loved church building.

We are also co-ordinating and providing refreshments - drinks and cakes for the Bishops Garden Party which is a bi-annual event, held in the Gardens of Bishop Pete

With inclusivity, creativity, and community at its heart, the year ahead promises to be another exciting year.

Claire Webber

Coffee and Refreshments

After the morning service on a Sunday, we continue to serve coffee, tea, squash and biscuits. This is an important part of our Sunday mornings - people like to gather after the service to chat, catch up with friends and share news. Our coffee & tea is sourced from the Fairtrade shop at Broomhill. We are always looking for extra people to come onto the rota to help serve. Thank you to the excellent volunteers who help each week to provide refreshments after the morning service - it is greatly appreciated. If you would like to help, please speak to Claire in the Parish office.

Scissors Paper Stone

Scissors Paper Stone

We are now in our third year of the Scissors Paper Stone community history project, based on the archives of St John's Church Ranmoor. The project is focused on late nineteenth century Ranmoor and what the church's history can tell us about the community which created it.

Each year's programme has included talks from a range of local historians, an art exhibition in church, activities with school age children and music of different sorts. Each year the programme has a particular focus while offering opportunities to extend work on topics explored earlier. We have now had

13 different historians engaged in original research and sharing their material with other researchers. Our work is uncovering histories which are not easy to access: those whose lives leave few records. It is also making known surprising and little-known details about more prominent members of the city's elite.

Margaret Bennett, a Sheffield artist, has not only raised money for the Spire fund by selling her works she has also attracted artists from across the region. Her 2025 exhibition called 'Unseen' helped sharpen our awareness of the servants and low paid labour on which our community depended. She and Val Hewson are talking in September about what was lost when our first church burnt down.

A range of the city's history groups have helped us by sharing material, promoting our events and giving us advice. I am particularly grateful to the Ranmoor History Group, the Hunter Archaeological Society, the Fulwood History Group, the General Cemetery Trust and the Joined Up Heritage organisation.

Dr Kate Faulks, whose work on the social networks of the early nineteenth century Commissioner churches is well known in the city, has generously helped the Scissors Paper Stone participants to learn from each other. We have now established twice yearly meetings to share material. We meet far more than this in informal groups. This shared research activity is adding to the scope and quality of our work. We are increasingly able to identify the kind of connections made between members of the community of Ranmoor and the way those connections shaped the lives of those who lived here.

What has most delighted me this year is the interest and participation in our activities by an increasingly wide range of people: congregational members, Ranmoor neighbours, local school age children, visitors from across the city, and artists from Sheffield and other cities. This has led to individuals who have heard of our project, sharing invaluable family records. The church has been used for a range of different kinds of events. Julian Sullivan and his fellow jazz musicians provided the music for our final event in the summer of 2025.

In 2027 our focus will be both on the early years of our musical life in the community and will develop our work on the nature of the social networks of Ranmoor in general.

The wealth of material collected in the last three years has been shared on regular blog posts hosted by the Church website and monthly articles in our parish magazine, Inspire. The

organisational and design skills of Claire Webber, Philip Walshaw and Sarah Beardsmore has made this possible. Matthew Rhodes and the church wardens, Pauline Heath and Mark Gregory have given this project practical help and personal encouragement.

The welcome Matthew has given audiences at talks has been accompanied by refreshments provided by the refreshment team, organised by Janet Anker. The home-made cakes contribute immeasurably to the sense of warmth and welcome often commented on by those who have attended our events.

The wealth of material we have now collected has prompted many to suggest that we ought to create a publication, possibly coinciding with 2029, the 150th anniversary of the church. Watch this space!

Mary Grover

Wardens, Duty Wardens and Sides People

This year marks a number of changes in the rota team. We allow four long-serving members to retire and welcome three new members in, much-needed, duty warden roles (Caroline Gracey, Nick Morris and Jim Weston).

We are very grateful for the long service of our retirees - Peter and Norma Chatterton, Janet Atkinson and John Biggin, although John and Janet will continue as readers.

We also say goodbye to our student members, as they graduate. Becky Marsh qualified in Medicine last summer and is now working in Hull, whilst Thomas and Jack Whentringham will graduate this summer and move away from Sheffield. It's been a pleasure to have them with us during their courses and we wish them all success in their future careers.

Helen Baxter also joins the side-person list this year and whilst we have maintained numbers it gets more difficult to maintain a "two duties per rota" level of commitment, so new members are always welcome.

Finally, thank you to all those who have given such great support this past year - being the welcoming face of St. John's is the most important part of the role.

John Green

Wardens and Duty Wardens

Pauline Heath

Mark Gregory

John Green

Carl Webber

Peter Wozencroft

Caroline Gracey

Nick Morris

Jim Weston

Senior Sides-persons

Sandra Green

Chris Lewis

Anthea Priestley

Barbara Wozencroft

Sides-persons

Helen Baxter

Krys Chandler

Nigel Edmonds

Susan Hepworth

Jill Lewis

Jackie Lowe

Morag Shaw*

Mandy Stockley

Pat Thompson

Wendy Weeks *

David Booker

Pam Cooper*

Rosie Gregory*

Trudie Kelly

Peter Lowe

Peter Marrison*

Gillian Stanley

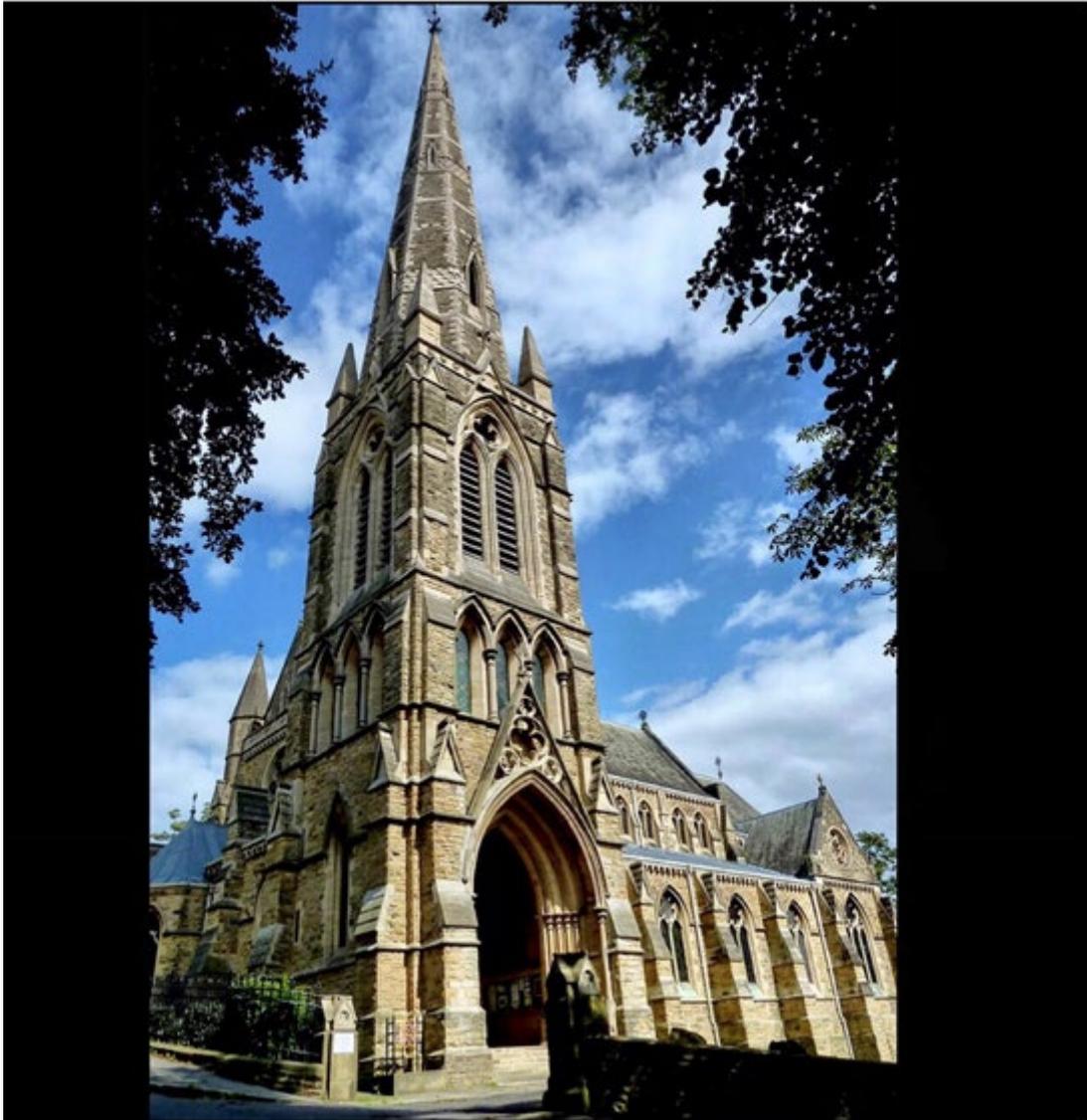
Veronica Sullivan

Claire Webber

Graham Woods

* Evensong

Thank you to everyone for your contributions.



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