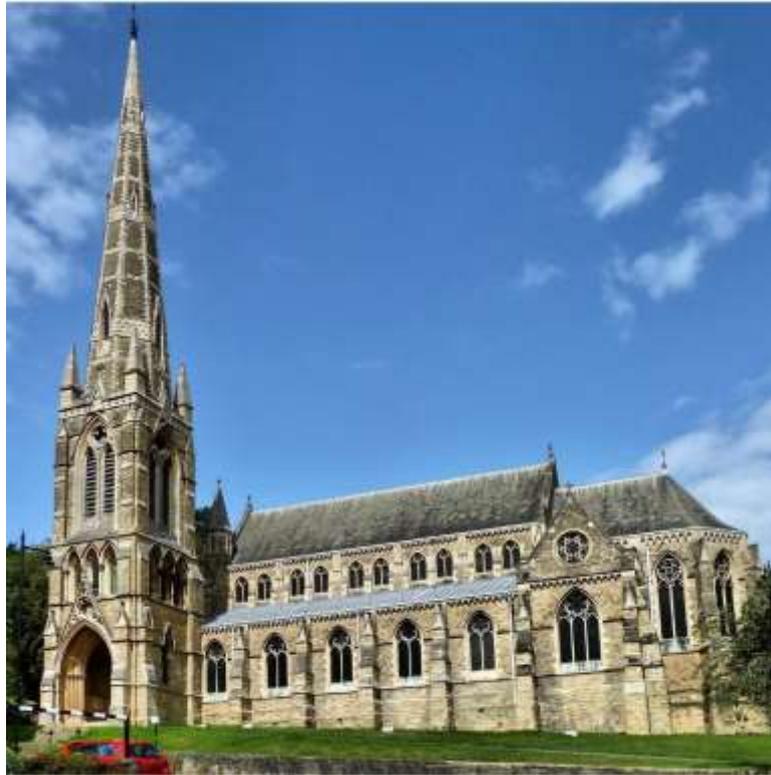


ST JOHN'S CHURCH, RANMOOR



Reports to the 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Publication Date:
25th April 2023

APCM Date:
14th May 2023

This report contains information about many of the groups and activities that have taken place through 2022.

The 2022 Accounts are published separately to this document.

This report can be downloaded from our [website](#).

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.

Recently, the Church of England extended the season for APCM's to May. This helps avoid clashes with Passiontide and Easter. This year, May is going to be a busy month with the King's Coronation on 6th and three bank holidays. Our APCM is taking place after the morning service on 14th May, which is also the start of Christian Aid Week. After the meeting there will be a picnic and a walk to 'beat the bounds' of the parish to which all are welcome. This will provide a very helpful way for us to think about our parish and the people that St John's is called to serve.

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 of 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.

Church Building

As stated at last year's APCM, our architect identified considerable repair work for the church in his 2021 Quinquennial Inspection report. Areas of particular concern include the tower and spire, which have experienced significant decay of the internal masonry, and the vestries, where the fabric is progressively deteriorating. We intend to fund the substantial costs of the works by incorporating the repairs into the church's wider building improvement project.

The PCC's building subcommittee has continued to meet regularly to develop the building project. The current priority is to complete a feasibility study and produce a business case to evidence community need for a redeveloped church building. This information will be vital for obtaining further grants and support from bodies such as the National lottery. A community survey questionnaire will be delivered to every household in the parish in early May. This will be an exciting opportunity to raise awareness and enthusiasm locally for developing St Johns as a fully active, open-all-week community asset.

Routine repair works and improvements to the building and church grounds continue. The millennium stone, previously located outside the South door, has been removed due to safety concerns and stored for later use, hopefully as a feature in the church building project. Three new CCTV cameras have been installed and the vicars' tenure board has been refreshed and spelling mistakes amended. A local company, RGS Cleaning, has also been contracted as the church's new cleaners. Finally, a privately-funded project to restore the metal finish to the organ pipes is now underway following receipt of a Diocesan faculty for the work.

We have all experienced rising energy bills over the past year, and the church is no exception. To manage costs, and adhere to our environmental ethos, we have signed up with *Green Energy*, a renewable energy broker widely used by parishes in the Diocese of Leeds and Sheffield. Green Energy has helped us move to a more cost-effective electricity tariff and we will be looking to renegotiate the church's gas contract in the coming months.

Although not a ‘lockdown year’, the past 12 months have not been without their challenges and we are grateful to Steve Dugdale, Jim Dugdale, the PCC and the Clergy for all they do to help maintain our church building and its life and worship.

Mark Gregory & Pauline Heath

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met on 18th May at St John’s Owlerton to talk about issues of poverty. This was a really helpful meeting with both a local (from Winn Gardens) and a national perspective. Though members of St John’s are very generous to the foodbank, we were conscious that foodbanks are a sticking plaster and radical change is needed. The synod passed a resolution on poverty which went to Diocesan Synod in July before being sent on to General Synod.

On 20th September we had a joint synod with Ecclesfield Deanery with which Hallam is twinned. This looked at mission and was well led by Ian Parkinson, our Associate Archdeacon, and Beth Keith, Theologian at St Mark’s Broomhill. It was good to meet brothers and sisters from Ecclesfield and talk about how we engage in mission.

On 22nd November we had another joint gathering with Ecclesfield, this time with Bishop Sophie at St John’s Owlerton, to share stories, teaching and prayer. In 2023 this gathering is expected to take place on 7th December.

Our most recent Deanery Synod was on 30th March at Stannington where Canon Toby Hole, the Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry, was the speaker. His new department amalgamates the Parish Support Team and St Peter’s College. Toby spoke about recent and planned changes in mission and ministry in the Diocese and encouraged us to engage with Mission Action Planning.

This year, new elections to the Deanery Synod are taking place at our APCM. We have at least one vacancy. Deanery Synod members also have a place on the PCC. Please speak to David Green or 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. For the past two years, Matthew has been Associate Priest of St Mary’s. He takes the morning service there on the third Sunday of the month and is a governor of St Mary’s Primary School. Sue Hammersley, the Vicar of St Mark’s, is also Priest in Charge of St Mary’s. Among other things, the three churches work together on supporting people with dementia and their carers.

Recently, St John’s, St Mark’s and St Mary’s reviewed their relationship and agreed to work more closely, by finding opportunities to pray and worship together, sharing news of events and making our relationship more visible. We are currently looking for a joint name.

Electoral Roll Report

The Electoral Roll membership at the 2022 APCM totalled 164. Over the past year, we have removed 3 people who have sadly passed away. Three names have been added to the roll. 2 new people who have moved to the Parish and one lady who has moved from another Church.

We therefore have a total of 164 people currently on the roll.

Once in every six years the preparation of new church electoral rolls takes place, which means that everyone must come off the roll and re-apply. The next occasion for the preparation of new rolls is in 2025. People who would like to be on the Church Electoral roll must complete an electoral roll form. Forms should be completed and handed to a member of the Clergy, Churchwarden, the church office or to Claire Webber, our Electoral Roll Officer.

Inclusion

St John's journey of inclusion is ongoing. It has been discussed several times at PCC and is often highlighted in prayers and sermons. Last July we made our membership of Inclusive Church more prominent with new signs in the church entrance.

In May 2022, members of St John's took part in a service at the Cathedral in opposition to the visit of the conservative Christian leader Franklin Graham. In February this year, General Synod agreed to introduce same sex blessings. Members of St John's were involved in praying for the Synod and Cathy Rhodes, a General Synod member, voted for the change. We look forward to the first blessing of a same sex couple at St John's this July.

Inclusion is much wider than human sexuality of course. As well as falling on the first day of Christian Aid Week, our APCM marks the beginning of Dementia Action Week. St John's continues to work with St Mary's and St Mark's on dementia, and last May we organised a joint dementia songs of praise. We plan to hold a similar service this October. In February, we held an all-age service celebrating neurodiversity which was highlighted by BBC Radio Sheffield.

Through our music, St John's is growing younger and more diverse. In the past year we have celebrated the music of black and female composers and this June, as part of Pride Month, we will be celebrating the music of LGBTQ+ composers.

St John's still has a long way to go in terms of inclusion. For instance, our church building is not as accessible as we would like. But we continue to learn and grow and are always grateful for ideas and encouragement.

Children's Ministry

Footsteps still continues throughout the year The junior choir are still joining footsteps on the third Sunday and are attending all age Service. The pop-up choir has brought new families and younger siblings to the all age and there is provision during the all age for the younger children to be part of the service with linked crafts and stories in the crèche area. The crèche area continues to be well used and thankyou to Claire who

makes sure the weekly activity sheets and seasonal sheets are available at the back of church each week, for anyone to use.

We held a light party on Halloween which the children enjoyed with hot dogs and games. The Messy Church at Christmas was well attended where we had stories, crafts, music food and a gathering. The Easter Messy church wasn't as well attended (I think the glorious weather was against us) but for those who came had a good time with crafts, hot cross buns, the Easter story. Making the Easter Garden outside was fun, as was the music and a gathering service which the children and adults enjoyed. We hope to have more throughout the year.

Our hope is that the number of children and families in church continues to grow, and we can move forward with providing a weekly group again, especially if successful in appointing a children's and family worker. We are always on the lookout for any helpers or people who would like to run a session.

I would like to thank all the people who have helped throughout the last year not only on a Sunday but also at the Messy church sessions and the Light party. It is really appreciated.

I want to say a special thanks to Helen and Willow Clark for all their help support with the Childrens team over the years.

Love to all

Janet

Music

It has been a busy and very successful year for the music department 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. The Head Chorister, Maria Nikolaeva, moved into the Choral Scholars after Christmas so Mabel Bailey took on the role, very ably assisted by Sofia, Lily and Cecilia. These four "senior choristers" continue to be absolutely brilliant role models for the younger Choristers and Juniors and an invaluable help in keeping everything running smoothly. Numbers have held fairly steady around 10 with a few additions and a few departures. After Easter the numbers will grow to 16 with 4 Juniors moving up and 2 regular participants in the Pop-up Choir who have been keen to join for a while and have managed to rearrange their commitments in order to do so. 16 is the number we were aiming for as that will allow them to balance better against the "back row" (ie. alto, tenor and bass parts) so expect to see them singing with adult sopranos alongside them less often.

The Junior Choir has proved to be a really successful vehicle for recruitment - we are able to offer children a solid introduction to choral singing without asking for such a large commitment as we do for the Choristers. Numbers are up to 15, which is great, but that will go down to 11 after Easter as 4 of our Juniors have reached a stage where they are ready to move into the Choristers and, as importantly, their families are able to support the extra commitment. Going forward, we don't expect all Juniors necessarily to reach this point so need to continue to work hard on recruitment to ensure numbers remain healthy so that we have a steady stream of new Choristers. We have been able to get into more schools this year than last with a good deal of success.

The Pop-up Choir has also been successful from the point of view of recruitment, with a good number of Juniors and Choristers having joined the choir via this route. With various refinements we have made over

the last year or so, I think we are now able to offer an accessible opportunity to take part in some high-quality singing on less than an hour's rehearsal which is an unusual and very appealing offer.

As reported last year, the Choral Scholars reduced by 3 with the departure of our Yr13s. We now have 4, one of whom will be leaving at the end of this year as he is in Yr13. 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. We have not actively recruited in this area, seeing this as more of a route for our Choristers to take when they move on from that but we are open to young people joining the choir as Choral Scholars and will be looking for ways to publicise this more widely.

We are most grateful to Georgina Hulse (Chorister Tutor), Matthew Warbis (Organ Scholar) and Katie Collin for their work training the Choristers and Juniors on Monday evenings, to Jacky Dakin for organising their robes and their 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.

The Adult Choir have gone from strength to strength this year, singing an increasingly wide repertoire to a consistently very high standard, often excellent. This has been achieved through the hard work, commitment and talent of our members and helped by some excellent new recruits. I am also very grateful for their support in the training and recruiting of our young singers – for instance, they always turn out in force for the All Age Service despite the music not being the most thrilling or challenging for them as they understand and buy into what we are trying to do here. We are indebted to James Stone for “fixing” the choir – ensuring that there is a quorate, balanced group week in week out.

There have been numerous highlights over the last year:

- i) In August, the choir had a week-long tour singing the services in Exeter Cathedral Monday–Thursday and at St Mary', Redcliffe on Saturday and Sunday. A good number of Choristers were able to make the trip and some Juniors as well. It was a hugely successful trip, with our singing greatly appreciated in both places, and a great opportunity for people to get to know each other better socially and musically.
- ii) In October we had our Come and Sing Faure Requiem and Britten St Nicolas. We had 30 visiting singers join our own choir in a day of rehearsals, culminating in an excellent performance, with the Choristers taking a starring role in both works. The day was not without its challenges but was a good learning experience to help us in planning this and other large events in the future. This will become an annual event.
- iii) In December we held our “Christmas Extravaganza” with Stannington Brass Band. A combination of poor weather and an England World Cup Quarter-Final led to the audience being smaller than we would have hoped for but the concert was hugely successful and the choir (including Choristers and Juniors) really enjoyed working with the excellent brass band (and they with us). This will also recur annually, with the same band.
- iv) In March the choir sang Buxtehude's Membra Jesu Nostri accompanied by a string trio alongside Derek Grover on the chamber organ. It is now an annual event to sing an oratorio in place of evensong on Passion Sunday. Next year it will be Bach's St Matthew Passion in a collaboration with Steel City Choristers.
- v) As part of our attempts to ensure the music at St John's reflects our status as an inclusive church, we celebrated Black History Month by including at least one piece of music by a black composer per week during October and International Women's Day by including at least one piece by a female composer in each

week of March. This has been a hugely successful thing and introduced us to some wonderful music that was unfamiliar to many if not all of us.

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, all of which have been very successful.

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, Matthew Warbis and (newly-joined member of the organist team) Peter Heginbotham for their excellent playing, conducting, wisdom and support.

Our monthly Organ Recitals have continued this year with recitals by Joshua Stephens, Peter Siepmann, George Parsons and members of our team of organists. These have been reasonably well-attended but we will be looking for ways to build the audience in the next season. The organ has been much more reliable this year, as you would expect as it has now had to time to settle down after the restoration.

Flowers

The flower rota is coordinated by Sandra Green and Jackie Lowe. Each volunteer on the rota normally commits to providing and arranging one pedestal of flowers in Church for two consecutive weeks, on average once a year.

Volunteers are also invited via the church notice sheet to help at the major festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. This usually entails providing and arranging flowers for either one of the window sills, a pedestal, the font or 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 and around the font. Volunteers also provided a mixture of spring flowers and potted plants arranged in baskets for the window sills and we used potted plants arranged in compost for the church porch.

For our harvest arrangements we used colourful autumnal foliage, berries and seedheads from our gardens for all the arrangements around the church and in the porch.

At Christmas we used red carnations, gold pine cones, baubles and stars together with holly and green foliage from members gardens to create asymmetrical arrangements for the pedestals and window sills. In the porch we used small potted Christmas trees planted in compost with baubles and stars. We have since planted the Christmas trees in our gardens to use again next year.

As part of St Johns Eco-church and the wider church's Net Zero action plan we have so far made changes towards using less floral foam (Oasis) in our arrangements and we are actively seeking to be floral foam free.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped to enhance our worship this year by providing flower arrangements.

We are always looking for more people to help so please do contact either Sandra Green or Jackie Lowe if you are interested.

Study Groups

This year we joined with the churches in our mission partnership (St Mark's, Broomhill and St Mary's, Walkley) and the Manor for our Lent Study Groups. We studied a course called 'Act Now', written by a John Schofield, a member of St Mark's congregation.

It looked at five moments in the Book of Acts : how God shaped, shapes and will shape the life of God's people. Each meeting consisted of a starter activity (often a photograph of a piece of art or a poem), followed by an introduction to the context of the passage. We then read the main passage and a discussion based on a series of questions followed. Each meeting closed with a short meditation.

There were a number of groups available across the mission partnership each week, which gave everyone flexibility regarding days and timing. St John's hosted two groups on a Wednesday evening and a Thursday afternoon. The groups were led by Alison Wragg and members of our congregation and open to everyone from the different churches.

We have found that in reading, reflecting, discussing and listening together, we have learned much from each other, helping us to grow in faith and as a wider Christian community.

Sandra Green

Eco Church

As Christians we believe 'The Earth is the Lord's, and everything in it' (Ps 24). The fifth Anglican Mark of Mission is 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.' As part of this mission we reached Silver Eco Church in the A Rocha Eco Church survey in:

Buildings

Our church 2021 estimated carbon footprint of 48 tonnes netCo2 is the third biggest in the Diocese. Gas heating is our source of carbon emissions; to meet the CofE 'Net Zero by 2030' target we need to rise to this challenge! Our green electricity tariff helps. The vicarage solar panels/EV charger are part of Eco Church too. Pauline Heath as Churchwarden & Peter Lowe as Building Committee chair were at the February Diocesan Net Zero meeting. See Peter's article in April Inspire to learn more!

Worship & Teaching

Talking of Inspire, we've had eco-articles, many by John Green, on social change and the CofE, activism and Christian faith, and renewable and community energy. Book reviews and a series on bees by Julian Sullivan, and sermons continue our teaching and learning. Intercessors pray regularly for God's Creation and Climate Justice, including at the Eco Church all age service on 5th March and at Harvest, and we sing songs and hear music about creation from our wonderful choir.

Beautiful flowers arranged by the fabulous volunteer team are a vital part of our worship. The Eco Church group has welcomed initial discussion on floral foam. This plastic by-product of the oil industry takes up to 500 years to degrade, and microplastics end up in the sea. The team are also looking at the carbon footprint

of our flowers. These are big challenges while maintaining our high standards and controlling costs. Having planters with living flowers in the church porch has been a beautiful reminder of increasing sustainability.

Land

The vicarage garden is designed for nature including organic gardening, bee and butterfly friendly plants, a small pond, composting, water butts, bug & bird houses and a swift box. The Parish Centre Garden is also great for wildlife, with flowers for pollinators, log piles, and a hedgehog and a swift box. We hope to put in a small pond and a water butt, and tree surgeons are advising on keeping the trees healthy and safe. We'll take part in 'No Mow May' again in front of church as in the Land Management Plan and will see at June 'Churches Count on Nature' how many species we can find!

Community & Global engagement

We support environment charities, including A Rocha, Christian Aid and at the 'Eco-themed' Bishop's Garden Party. St John's played a key part of this. Alongside the amazing refreshments, Jan Noble led children's activities and Philip Walshaw was there with his pallet planters! In September a film featuring St John's and other Eco Churches was part of Great Big Green Week with Nature Recovery Sheffield and the Wildlife Trust: search YouTube for 'Sheffield Nature Heroes.' And all our toilets are twinned for Eco Church! Lobbying for change is part of Eco Church, and Cathy and Matthew will be at a service in London and marching as part of 'The Big One' climate protest in April.

Lifestyle

The Good Taste Fairtrade shop was at the Garden Party and it is good to have a regular stall at church too, as part of Eco Church alongside Fairtrade beverages! We've encouraged people to do environmental footprints via Inspire, and we are at early stages working with St Mark's exploring running a joint accredited Carbon Literacy Course.

There is so much happening, and we could do even more if you would like to join us. Do chat to John Green or Cathy Rhodes if you would like to help in any way. Hopefully some of you were at the Parish Centre Garden working party on 8th May at 10.30, if not come to the next one!

John Green and Cathy Rhodes

Ranmoor Ringers

This year has been a little more "back to normal" with more ringers joining us for both practice nights and Sunday Service ringing.

We have 15 regular ringers for Sundays and one student who regularly attends. Peter and Elaine are in the process of teaching one learner for his Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme and one mature learner which will swell the ranks. One other learner is now proficient at ringing and a great asset.

There have been 4 visiting bands on a Tuesday and Sunday to add to the numbers.

Ringing for royal occasions both joyous and sad has added a different dimension to our normal repertoire. We have fulfilled all our obligations as requested by the Church and the Central Council of Church

Bellringers for the late Duke of Edinburgh and our Queen and it has been an honour to do so. Many thanks go to our Steeple Keepers for muffling and unmuffling the bells at the right time.

My thanks go as always to the band in supporting me and the church to ensure that our message and call is heard out over Ranmoor.

Richard Noble – Tower Captain.

Report of the Pastoral Care Group

The Pastoral Care Group has met 10 times during 2022-2023:

Members of the Pastoral Care Group during 2022 have been: Janet Atkinson (chair), Liz Dwyer, Rosemary Farkas, Mary Grover, Trudie Kelly, Gillian Stanley, Mandy Stockley and Barbara Wozencroft. Rev Matthew Rhodes, Alison Wragg in her role as deacon and Rev Matt Wood also attended meetings and have continued to play a key role in guiding our work and offering support to individual members of the congregation as needed.

Roles and responsibilities

- Mary Grover and Liz Dwyer continue to act on requests for short-term support offering meals to families or individuals.
- Barbara Wozencroft has again organised a transport rota throughout the year and responds to any new requests for people needing help to get to church services.
- Trudie Kelly provides 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 continues to provide professional guidance and insight on issues relating to pastoral care
- Mandy Stockley and Gillian Stanley have provided regular visits and support to people not able to leave their homes

In all our work careful attention is given to data protection, safeguarding and confidentiality.

Areas of pastoral care covered since April 2022

The informal support that so many members of the congregation offer to each other continues to be a vital part of the life at St John's, often quietly undertaken without any formal recognition or mention: e.g. lifts to hospital, visits and ongoing care and support. The pastoral care group provides a framework to ensure that as far as possible we can respond to situations when needed and support the clergy in their pastoral role.

It has been interesting to note that during 2022 requests for meals to be delivered to people's homes have been significantly lower since the pandemic. This may be linked to the increase in the range and quality of ready cooked meals on the market.

The Wednesday lunch club has continued to thrive and expand in numbers: now serving on average more than 20 meals a week, including occasional home deliveries to those members unable to attend. Thanks to all the volunteers and in particular to Anne Ward who has been organising the volunteer rota and helping at

the lunch club for more than 20 years. Following a successful application to the city council there is now some funding for the Lunch Club which will contribute towards the cost of transport and the development of new activities.

In August 2022 we were able to resume the Wednesday lunches for the summer holiday period when regular volunteers are able to have a break. We provided 70 meals over 4 weeks with two teams of helpers, including 4 young people.

Thanks again to Trudie Kelly and Pat Thompson who continue to send cards on the first anniversaries of weddings and christenings that take place at St John's, thus maintaining contact with that younger group of people and their families.

As part of our Mission Partnership activities a service of Songs of Praise for people with dementia and their families took place at St Marks Broomhill in May organised by the dementia support group. It was well attended and a future event is now being planned for later this year.

Thanks and Looking Ahead

We continue to be thankful for the 36 people in our church community who continue to offer their time and skill; enabling us to care for each other both informally and through more organised activities.

The introduction of a social lunch once a month following the Sunday morning service has been welcomed by all those who have attended, providing a simple but delicious lunch and a variety of enjoyable activities. Thanks to Wendy Weeks and Janet Anker for making this happen.

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.

If you are interested in finding out more about our pastoral care activities or feel you might like to contribute in some way, please speak to Janet Atkinson or contact Claire who will pass on your details to a member of the pastoral care group.

We are currently looking for two extra people who would volunteer to drive someone to a service on one Sunday each month.

When people volunteer, we ask for a commitment of only twelve months as it is important that people are able to step down when ready; thankfully others are always found enabling us to continue providing care and support.

Janet Atkinson on behalf of the Pastoral Care Group. March 2023

Social Justice Committee

Report of the Social Justice Group of St John's to the APCM May 2023

We are delighted to welcome two new members of the group, Ruby Hart and Wendy Weeks. We have met twice in the last twelve months. Those involved with Christian Aid and green issues work independently but share their activities with the Social Justice Group.

Church Giving to charities.

The Social Justice Group is responsible for scrutinising annually the church's charitable giving and sending out recommendations to the PCC. St John's donates 4% to charity, out of the income left over after our contribution to the Diocese.

We allocate funds on the following basis:

- A. 10% Subscriptions
- B. 30% Overseas
- C. 30% UK
- D. 30% Sheffield

Total 2021-22: £4,099.60

The PCC agreed our recommendations. Charities new to us included the Bluebell Hospice, Joy Bank, I Rise,

A: Subscriptions to stand as they were: Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers £120 and what remains of the 10% to A Rocha UK.

B: Overseas to retain UNCR and Medecins Sans Frontières and to add Disasters Emergency Committee.

C: National to retain MIND and to add the Shannon Trust which supports education in prisons and the Church Action on Poverty.

D: Sheffield to retain Sanctuary, and to add Sheffield Young Carers and SRASAC which supports those who have experienced rape or sexual assault.

Christmas Card Board: It was agreed that the Christmas Card Board proceeds should go to the Archer Project. This year a single communal card was displayed and signed by members of congregation who gave donations.

2. Fair Trade Stall

Our Fair Trade stall was resumed in December 2022. It is now held on the second Sunday of every month. We are grateful to Jenny from Good Taste, the fair-trade shop in Broomhill, for preparing the box and to Janet and Malcolm Anker who deliver the box to church.

Dementia Action Week - Wendy Weeks has, over many years, helped the church become aware of the ways in which we can support those with dementia. In 2022 she helped a dementia friendly service, jointly with St Mark's. (See separate dementia report)

Neuro-divergence

In February 2023 Ruby and Matthew worked together to help the congregation understand how the way we worship is experienced by people with different kinds of neuro-divergence. In February they planned a service which heightened our awareness of the ways in which our worship can become more welcoming and inclusive. The service succeeded in giving everyone an opportunity to reflect on the huge range of ways in which our church services are experienced. It was a joy to share worship in forms that could be welcoming to all.

Baby Basics

We are very grateful that Susan Hepworth continues to maintain the church's link with Baby Basics.

Finally, though we are a large group whose members are all active in various aspects of the church's work for social justice, we still lack a chair. Please would anyone who feels they take on this role contact Matthew. With many thanks,

Mary Grover.

Dementia Awareness

In 2020 a small group of people from the South Hallam Mission Area, who each had a commitment to raising the awareness of dementia within our churches, came together to work on raising dementia awareness in our churches. These were St Mary's (Walkley), St Mark's (Broomhill) and St John's (Ranmoor). There was no budget and no allocated resources. Our aim was and remains to explore and put in place realistic ideas to raise dementia awareness across our 3 churches. We need to collectively agree to introducing a particular idea but still have the flexibility to fine tune it according to the perspective of the different parishes, for example the type of service undertaken in the different type of care homes in our parishes.

We termed ourselves the "Dementia Core Group" and sought volunteers from our congregations for tasks that required extra skills eg musicians, bakers, knitters. These were needed for a dementia friendly "Songs of Praise" during Dementia Action Week last May. Many of St John's congregation joined in knitting the hundreds of "woolly forget me nots" used for decorating both St John's and St Mark's.

Over the last year St John's has returned to taking dementia appropriate services in our dementia care homes, on a monthly basis. By agreement, each Easter and Christmas, one of the Mission Area churches in turn has responsibility for designing a card which is given to all the residents of the care homes in our parishes.

Since 2021 The 3 churches have jointly been a member of the Sheffield Dementia Action Alliance (SDAA) which is a city wide multi organisation aiming to increase dementia awareness across many businesses, retail areas etc. As a member of this organisation it is necessary to submit 2 pledges as to how we are planning to increase dementia awareness in the coming year and evaluate it. A Mission Area pledge for this

coming year has recently been submitted and involves our continuing to provide Easter and Christmas cards communicating the Christian message to all residents, but particularly those with dementia, in our care homes. The second pledge is to use the skills of our Core Group (and volunteers as required) to devise a Harvest/Creationtide act of worship specifically for people with dementia. This will take place at St Mark's church in October.

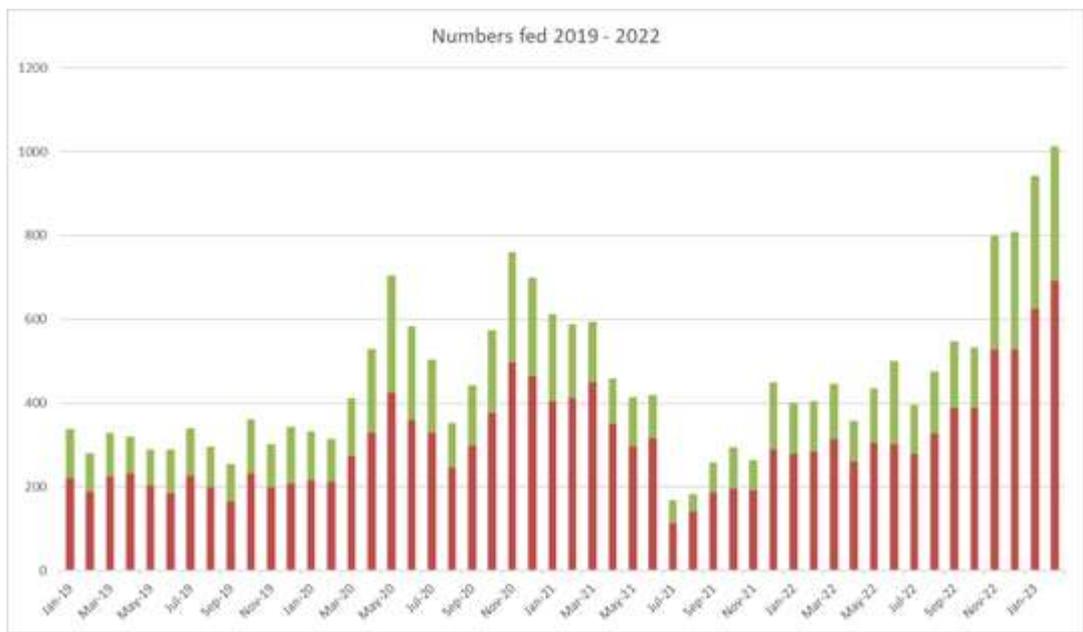
Wendy Weeks

Burngreave Foodbank

In 2022, St John's provided Burngreave Foodbank with an incredible 3776 kg of food & toiletries, which is the approximate equivalent of 8990 meals! St John's were by far and away the biggest individual donor of the year, responsible for 11% of the total donations for the year.

But it's not just the quantity, but also the 'quality' of what we collect fortnightly from St John's that the foodbank really appreciate as it's always items that they really need or the extra special items, (especially at Christmas), that make the difference to the person/family receiving the food. The basic food parcel that is given out provides the necessities for 3 days of meals, but they always really appreciate having some special 'extras' such as chocolates or nice biscuits or toiletries that can make someone's eyes light up when they see it, whether it's a child or adult! It's the difference between just being given a 'handout' to actually knowing that someone has cared, and that means so much to the Burngreave Foodbank as that is the message that they want their clients to leave with. When I asked the Leader of the Burngreave Foodbank what their message to St John's was they said "So aside from the key facts, please do let everyone know just how much the loving thoughtfulness that goes into their donations means to us and our clients. "

This graph shows the food bank uses and how it has increased recently, that the need has been growing;



(the red are numbers of adults and green, children)

They are hoping that they may be starting to see a gradual drop as we get into the warmer months, but we know that many are still facing huge challenges with the rising cost of living, so it remains to be seen whether this does actually happen. The Foodbank remain deeply, deeply grateful for each and every donation that they have had from St John's and for our faithfulness in supporting them in such a generous way. Claire Webber

Christian Aid

During the week last year we were able to deliver envelopes and leaflets (showing the Christian Aid Week events) to nearly every house in the parish, and a number of people who delivered also collected bringing a total of £1,180.61. A further £474 came from envelopes dropped off at our two collection points. During the course of the week we hosted a flower arranging demonstration given by Sandra Green and Rosie Gregory, which raised £170. In the same week we were treated to a Concert of Talents given by members of our choir and congregation. This made £153. The annual Big Breakfast was very successful and raised £569.45, by selling bacon rolls, books, cakes and plants. Sponsorship from walks amounted to another £200. Card payments via St John's CA account came to £190, making the total £3,069.

This was down from last year as we were unable to account for card payments going direct to Christian Aid Just Giving. We think this will be the trend for the future. However, we will continue to deliver envelopes round the parish and leaflets giving publicity for all this year's events. We have also increased our collection points so we hope this will make it easier for people to support Christian Aid. The focus for 2023 is Malawi and the effects of climate change.

We would like to thank all those who have given and continue to give such valuable financial and practical support and all who have given their time and talents for this very worthwhile and necessary charity.

Janet Anker and Pauline Heath

Safeguarding

As members of the Church of England we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community, of all ages. It is the responsibility of each one of us to protect children and young people and vulnerable adults from physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and from neglect. The Safeguarding policy is updated each year and the current year 2022-23 was signed off as part of the PCC meeting in March 2022.

The PCC appointed me as independent Parish Safeguarding Officer. I have attended many training courses on safeguarding and ensure that the PCC are up-to-date with all aspects of keeping our church safe.

St John's is very pro-active, ensuring that DBS Certificates are in place for any people working with children and vulnerable adults. Risk Assessments take place for every piece of activity we may conduct, and First Aid Courses are ran to ensure we have emergency training to help anybody who falls ill or has an accident. This year due to the pandemic we have ensured that the use of media, images and consents are all up to date for parents. We have also increased awareness about church being a safe place for all. We have introduced

registration forms for adults and children joining any of our groups and we update any legislation as and when this is implanted throughout the year. Safeguarding is part of our monthly PCC Agenda.

Importantly I ensure that people who work with children and vulnerable adults in our parish are trained and aware of what to do to keep our church a safe place. Thank you, Claire Webber

Weddings

St John's is a wonderful church where on average we have 16+ weddings taking place each year. Around half the couples that are married here attend regularly to come on our electoral roll. Many have another qualifying connection to be married such as – they have lived in the parish; their parents or grandparents were married here and so on.

In 2022 we had 17 weddings in total. 2 of which were blessings, as the marriages had been taken place the year before during the pandemic. 3 of the 17 were postponed weddings from 2020 – 21 which had been affected by Covid.

There are fewer weddings booked through 2022 for 2023 and 2024 and we acknowledge that this is due to couples facing more financial constraints and nervousness about committing to a big wedding and the costs associated. We are very much looking forward to our first same sex blessing which will take place in summer 2022.

We hope and pray for all couples being married in St John's this year and wish them all very well in their lives together.

Social Events

The Committee has held regular meetings in person, with a focus on the schedule of events in 2023 aimed both at increasing the social cohesion of the existing church family and reaching out into the community within Ranmoor Parish and the wider Diocese.

We have a full programme, having already held one sell-out talk in March and with April and September dates agreed. Tickets are selling well for the April talk. Plans for a lunch party on 7th May to celebrate the Coronation are well-advanced and we have another varied and exciting programme of events during Christian Aid Week (20th–26th May).

We are organising a celebratory lunch for the priesting of Alison Wragg and ordination as deacon of our new curate Peter Pathikrit on 2nd July. There is also a planned coach trip to Scarborough on 8th July in conjunction with our Mission Partner churches, and sign-ups are going reasonably well. As usual many members of our St John's family are “just getting on with it...”, and the unsung hero approach is making sure that we have a rich variety of things to look forward to during the remainder of the year.

Peter Wozencroft, Chair of the Committee

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.

Inspire Magazine

The parish magazine continues to flourish under the editorship of Philip Walshaw. It is posted out and hand delivered, with the help of Janet and Malcolm Anker, Chris Cooper and Alan and Pauline Heath. Additionally, it is e-mailed to everyone on the Church's database. Copies are available inside Church and in the Parish Centre. We try to break even financially, although this is proving more difficult with ever increasing printing costs and some advertisers not renewing this year. In 2022, the income from the magazine was £2,075 and the costs were £2,346, resulting in a subsidy of £271.

With no price increase for many years, the magazine represents good value at £1 per issue 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. Articles for inclusion in the magazine are always welcomed from anyone. Many thanks to those who do submit them, particularly John Green and Roy Stanley, who are regular contributors.

Philip Walshaw

Tech Team

Our current streaming arrangement is to broadcast both Sunday morning and evening services and occasional weddings, funerals and concerts.

Due to technical issues with broadcasting on Facebook Live, we have now switched all live service streaming to YouTube. Feedback so far has been very positive and YouTube seems to offer a versatile and user-friendly platform.

The streaming system itself has been simplified and semi-automated, and can now be operated with minimal training. Further improvements to the system are underway, with the ultimate goal being that sidespeople will operate the sound desk/broadcast system as part of their duties during services. This will reduce our reliance on trained volunteers and make the system more sustainable for the future.

I am grateful to all those who have volunteered their time over the past year to support our broadcasting and help share our life and worship with those unable to attend St John's in person.

Sides People

Report on Sides Person Teams

Last year's report suggested that we were almost back to normal, but things have progressed further to the point we have communion in both kinds and a collection at the offertory hymn.

Covid arrangements are now thankfully behind us and numbers are increasing, so a team of 3 will need to increase to 4 at the Sunday morning service. If you were previously a Senior Sidesperson, then please expect an email soon!

Mark Gregory has greatly simplified the Tech arrangements, so we are gradually re-learning the revised sound desk. Streaming now takes place via You Tube and is semi-automatic.

We have had three retirements this year - John Hepworth after many years and the Clark Family who are taking a break from All Age. Thank you to all of them for their years of service and for keeping the rota going through the turmoil of recent years.

I'm very pleased to report that we have been joined this year by Debbie Bower, who is relatively new to St. John's and Gill Stanley who has re-joined the rota.

Thank you, from me, to all those on the teams - both Sides persons and the Tech Team and for helping me avoid date clashes **before** I send out the new rota, which has worked well this past year!

John Green

Wardens and Duty Wardens

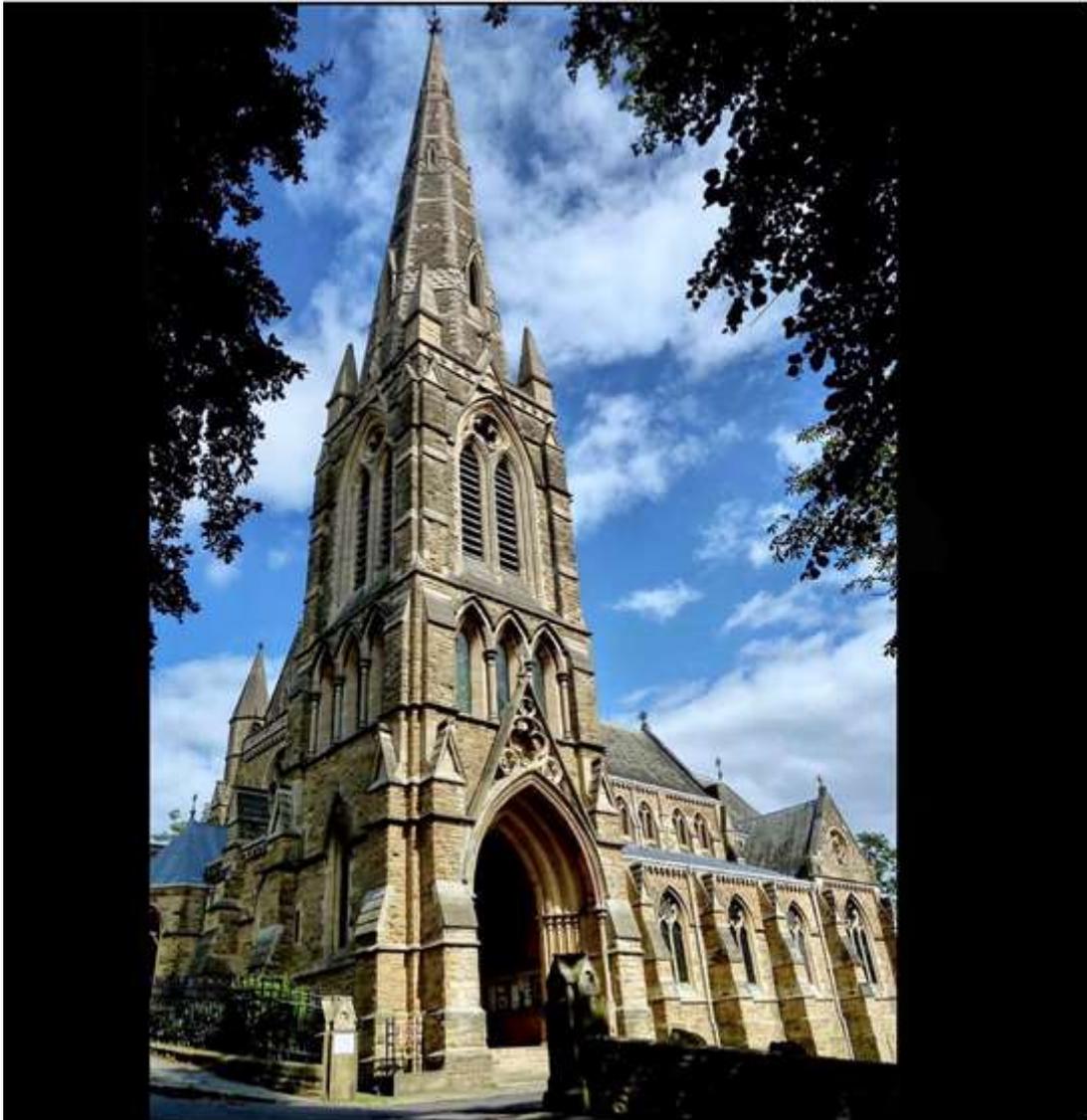
Pauline Heath*
 Mark Gregory***
 John Green
 Peter Lowe
 Carl Webber**
 Anthea Priestley
 Peter Wozencroft

Sides-persons

Janet Anker	Mark Allcock ***
Malcolm Anker	Janet Atkinson
Deborah Bower	John Biggin*
David Booker	Pam Cooper*
Nigel Edmonds	Sandra Green
Rosie Gregory*	Susan Hepworth
Trudie Kelly	Jackie Lowe
Peter Marrison*	Dylan Scott***
Morag Shaw *	Gillian Stanley
Mandy Stockley	Veronica Sullivan
Pat Thompson	Claire Webber **
Wendy Weeks *	Barbara Wozencroft

* Evensong ** All Age *** Tech Team

Thank you to everyone for your contributions.



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