

# ST JOHN'S CHURCH, RANMOOR



## Reports to the 2025 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

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16<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**APCM Date:**

27<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**This report contains information about many of the groups and activities that have taken place through 2024.**

**The 2024 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 wonderful work done by members of St John's to sustain and enrich its life. We are very grateful to the many volunteers who give of their time, talents and resources. As ever, we are always looking for new people to get involved. Hopefully, the following pages will inspire you to volunteer, perhaps by joining the PCC. This year our APCM is at noon on 27th April. We look forward to seeing you there! Matthew Rhodes, Vicar

## Church Building

Over the past year, we have begun significant works to maintain and improve St John's Church. These efforts focus on essential repairs, preservation, and ongoing maintenance to ensure the building remains functional and accessible. Alongside these projects, we have been continuing to explore ways to enhance the church environment for worship, events, and wider community use.

### The Inspire Project and 'Save Our Spire' Appeal

A major focus this year has been the Inspire Project, which aims to address the church's structural needs while also improving our space to meet the needs of the community.

Phase 1 of this initiative, and the most urgent part, is the 'Save Our Spire' appeal, which launched in March 2025. St John's has the second tallest church spire in Sheffield, but recent assessments have shown significant deterioration of both the spire and tower's structural integrity. Scaffolding was installed in August 2023 to protect against shedding masonry, and further investigations confirmed the need for urgent repairs. Save our Spire aims to raise awareness and funds for the necessary repairs, which include reinforcing the spire with brick, securing it with stainless steel pins, and repointing the stonework. The estimated cost of this work exceeds £1 million.

Fundraising efforts are ongoing, and we are grateful for the £100,000 grant already pledged by the Sheffield Church Burgesses Trust. Additional fundraising initiatives are being planned, and further contributions will be needed to fund the project. The threat facing the spire is existential, and we encourage all members of the congregation and wider community to support this effort in any way they can.

### West-End Guttering Replacement

Persistent water ingress caused by insufficient guttering has damaged internal stonework at the west-end of the church. Following our architect's advice, we are arranging urgent replacement of the guttering and installation of larger hoppers. A contractor has now been appointed and a lead pattern is being cast before work begins. The timeline for completion depends on the casting process, but this replacement is essential to prevent continuing water damage to the west-end of the building, especially as extreme weather conditions become more frequent in the current climate.

### War Memorial Cleaning

Following generous donations from the congregation, our beautiful war memorial outside the church has been professionally cleaned via a “soft washing” technique. Over time, dirt and weathering had obscured the inscriptions and dulled the stone. The cleaning process has restored the memorial’s brilliant white appearance while avoiding damage by more invasive methods.

### Quinquennial Inspection Commissioned

A quinquennial inspection has been scheduled for August 2025. Our architect will conduct a full building survey, including with a drone, to assess the church’s condition and identify necessary repairs. This inspection is separate from the Inspire Project and focuses on routine maintenance to prevent long-term deterioration of other areas of the building.

Quinquennial inspections are a vital part of church conservation, allowing us to plan repairs in a structured and cost-effective way. By addressing issues proactively, we aim to avoid more extensive and expensive restoration work in the future.

### Baptistry Frame Removal

The wrought-iron stand supporting the font cover in the baptistry is being removed. Installed in 1991, the stand was part of a previous reordering but is now felt to clutter an attractive area of the church, which features stained glass windows by Shrigley & Hunt. By removing this structure, we hope to open up the space for the congregation to fully utilise and appreciate.

A faculty (permission) from the Diocese is expected to be granted soon, allowing the work to proceed. This change is part of our broader effort to enhance the layout of the church.

### Organ Pipes Restoration

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Julian Gunn, our associate organist, the chancel organ pipes have now been stripped and repainted to restore them to their original metal finish. The pipes had previously been painted matte ochre in 1991 to match the light wood colour of the newly limed oak of the pews.

The restoration of the pipes to their original shiny metal colour now enhances the chancel, providing a visually striking area of the church which reflects light from the East and South East windows.

### Looking Ahead

Whilst many of the works listed concern maintenance and structural needs at St John’s, we remain committed to making improvements to accessibility, sustainability, and interior spaces to better serve our congregation and visitors and to enhance both our worship and community.

We will continue to update the congregation as further work progresses and welcome feedback on how we can ensure St John’s remains a welcoming and well-maintained space for all.

We are hugely grateful to our Verger, Steve Dugdale, for everything he does to look after our church on a daily basis. We are also grateful to the members of the PCC and Building Group subcommittee for their advice and support on all building matters.

Pauline Heath and Mark Gregory

## Deanery Synod

In 2024, the Deaneries of Hallam and Ecclesfield held joint synod and clergy chapter meetings. We have been grateful for the support of the Revd Mike Gilbert as our Associate Archdeacon Transition Enabler. In May, the synod met at Oughtibridge to learn more about buildings and the Church of England's journey to net zero. In September, they met at Wadsley to hear about the Diocese's latest bid for funding from the Church Commissioners. We heard in March that this has been successful. The September meeting was Matthew's last as Area Dean of Hallam. He stepped down from this role at the end of November and is now the Chair of the Diocesan House of Clergy. The Revd Dan Brown, Vicar of Wadsley, is to be Halam's new Area Dean. In 2024, Becky Marsh was elected from St John's as a lay member of Deanery Synod. St John's is also represented by Matthew and Cathy Rhodes, Alison Wragg and Peter Das but we still have a vacancy for another lay representative.

## Mission Area

St John's, St Mark's and St Mary's continue to work closely together. Matthew and Alison continue to take monthly services at St Mary's, and Peter and Matthew take occasional services at St Mark's. Matthew is a member of the school board of St Mary's Primary School and is also has responsibility for Walkley Cemetery. Members of St John's and St Mark's meet for morning prayer on Zoom twice a week and the three churches work together on dementia. In September, members of all three churches participated in a very successful mission area weekend.

Following the resignation last year of the Revd Sue Hammersley as Vicar of St Mark's and Priest in Charge of St Mary's, the Revd Dr Beth Keith took on these roles in January 2025. As a sign of our ever closer engagement, Beth and Matthew were also appointed as associate priests at St John's and St Mark's respectively. Matthew is already associate priest at St Mary's and it is anticipated that following the completion of her curacy this summer, Alison Wragg will be appointed as associate priest at both Ranmoor and Walkley.

## Electoral Roll Report

A new Church Electoral Roll has been prepared for 2025. The updated roll was presented two weeks before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and currently includes **143 members**.

If you're not yet on the roll, we warmly invite you to consider joining. Being on the Church Electoral Roll is more than just a formality—it's a way of saying *this is my church*, and it allows you to take an active part in shaping the future of our parish.

### Why join the Electoral Roll?

- It enables you to **vote** at the APCM and stand for roles within church leadership.
- It shows your **commitment** to the church family and your involvement in its mission and ministry.
- It helps strengthen our community by giving everyone a voice and a sense of belonging.

To join, simply complete an **Electoral Roll application form**. Forms can be handed in to:

- Any 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

Members of St John's continue to work on inclusion in a variety of areas including neurodiversity, learning difficulties and dementia. During the year, we have enjoyed more wonderful music from black, female and LGBTQ+ composers who are often under-represented or unacknowledged.

Following the decision by the Church of England to authorise Prayers of Love and Faith for same sex couples, the PCC has now agreed to offer these in the context of our regular worship and to provide standalone services of blessing if and when this becomes legal. Members of St John's continue to campaign for this change. The Church now has a dedicated web page for same sex couples:

[https://stjohnsranmoor.org.uk/Groups/413394/Same\\_Sex\\_Couples.aspx](https://stjohnsranmoor.org.uk/Groups/413394/Same_Sex_Couples.aspx)

We continue to work for greater inclusion at every level and in every area of our life and are always grateful for new ideas and encouragement.

## Save Our Spire - Inspire Project Steering Group

The Inspire Project Steering Group has continued to meet monthly over the last year as we've focussed on developing the plans for the Inspire Project and the Save Our Spire appeal.

Throughout the last year, we've been articulating a vision for the future of St John's. We want to be an organisation that inspires worship, learning and community. Our vision, together with the community survey we undertook in 2023, has informed a plan to re-order St John's; creating a space that is welcoming and comfortable for visitors, suitable for community use and is sustainable for the future. The Inspire Project includes provision of a kitchen servery, enhanced lighting and heating, removal of the pews to create a flexible Nave space, building of a new pavilion with toilets and a meeting room as well as the necessary work to restore the tower and spire and undertake other essential repairs. All of this work will cost in excess of £4 million. It's a bold vision, but would transform how our building can be used.

Given the scale of the project, the Inspire Project Steering Group have articulated a 'Phase 1' project which includes the restoration of the tower and spire, installation of a kitchen servery, repairs and reordering of the vestries to create accessible toilet facilities and improved heating - these are the elements of the project that would have the most immediate and significant impact on how the building is used. These areas are the ongoing focus of the Steering Group.

Last summer we commissioned and received the full designs and architectural drawings for the repairs and restoration of the tower and spire. The plans are hugely detailed and show all of the individual defects and exact nature of the planned interventions. The plans were fully costed by a Quantity Surveyor and we are currently in the final stages of seeking consent for the work from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (the advisory group for decisions about the care of church buildings).

At the same time, we received initial drawings for the kitchen servery and the reordering of the vestry space. The vestry plans include an accessible toilet and two further toilet cubicles as well as the essential repairs to prevent further water ingress and deterioration of the stone.

Alongside the design work for the project, the steering group has been working on plans for the funding of the project. The Phase 1 project will cost £1.4million, including over £1million on the tower and spire restoration. We've developed a diverse fundraising plan including seeking grant funding, community fundraising and the 'Save Our Spire' appeal which launched in early March. Visit the website [www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk/sos](http://www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk/sos) or use the QR code to find out more about the appeal.

I'm hugely grateful for the commitment and work of the Steering Group. If you have any questions about the project or would like to find out how you can get involved, do contact the office or speak to any of the Steering Group.

Sarah Beardsmore, Steering Group Chair



## Children's Ministry

### Board Games Café

The start of this year saw the launch of our brand-new Board Games Café! We held a session in January, in March and are very much looking forward to next the next one on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The Board Games Café is open to everyone and offers an inclusive and friendly environment to play games individually or with others. We have people attending from St Johns choir and Lunch Club, and from the local community too. There is wide range of games available suitable for all ages and abilities, and people are welcome to bring their own games to play if they wish. Refreshments are available throughout the event. We appreciate your prayers for continued growth of this relational outreach opportunity.



### Footsteps

We have continued to run Footsteps every Sunday and the children love their time with us. We have been following a great resource called God's Story, exploring faith and building discipleship. We would love some more volunteers to help with Footsteps; this would be to support the main leader of the session by interacting with the children and supporting them during the activities. The children learn so much from adults who share their own faith journeys and life experiences. Do get in touch with Claire Eaton or Janet Noble if you are interested in helping regularly or occasionally.

### Toddlers

Our Thursday morning Toddler Group offers a warm and nurturing environment for babies and children to learn through play, and for their carers to share the highs and lows of caring for young children. We have a fantastic team of volunteers who ensure the smooth running of our sessions, whether that be a warm welcome on the door, making a much needed (!) hot drink for the adults, preparing snack, setting up and packing down or, importantly, offering a listening ear to the parents/carers and playing alongside the children. Our group receives amazing feedback from the families who attend and who then recommend us to their friends.



### Messy Church

Last Christmas we had Messy Church followed by our Christingle service, both of which were well attended, and it was joy to share this special time together. We look forward to following the same format this year, having both services in one afternoon. The Posada travelled to St John's from St Marks and joined us for the Christingle service before continuing their journey to St Mary's. Whilst they were at St John's, Mary and Joseph stayed with some of our choir families, which was most definitely the highlight of their time with us! Recently we had our Easter Messy Church and





a really lovely time was had by all. Children enjoyed making individual Easter Gardens to take home, painting a canvas to reflect the colours of the Easter story, biscuit decorating, and making Holy Week bags - a simple devotional for families to explore together throughout Holy Week. Our next Messy Church will be Harvest.

Thank you for your love and prayers for the Children's Ministry at St John's, it is very much appreciated!

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.



We have 15 Choristers, all with good attendance and a high proportion of them with outstanding attendance, 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 - including the Come and Sing where they sang the Duruflé *Requiem*, the Christmas Extravaganza, Bach's *St Matthew Passion* (again, but this time with Sheffield Bach Choir) and, by the time of the APCM, Dvorak's *Stabat Mater*. I reported a year ago that they were a relatively young group, with 10 of the 15 still in Primary School, that is still true now having lost 3 Year 9s (two to become Choral Scholars and one to become Organ Scholar) and gained 3 Year 4s (moved up from the Juniors).



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. This year has seen the Juniors grow in number - there are now 13 Juniors; 7 in Year 1, 3 in Year 2 and 3 in Year 3. Much of this growth has been from younger siblings to existing Choristers and Juniors but we have also welcomed some new families to St John's as well.

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**, two in Year 9, two in Year 12 and one 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.

We are most grateful to Georgina Hulse (Chorister Tutor) 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.

Mabel has moved on from being Head Chorister to **Organ Scholar** and we have also appointed Cerys as a second Organ Scholar.

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, has been exceptional at times this year. 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 week singing the services at Truro Cathedral. We took a huge group of Adults, Choral Scholars, Choristers and Juniors. The choir sang beautifully all week, with their contribution greatly appreciated by the cathedral.
- ii) In October we had our Come and Sing event, Duruflé *Requiem* with other works. We had 30 visiting singers join our own choir in a day of rehearsals, culminating in an excellent performance, accompanied by Darius Battiwalla on the organ.
- iii) In December we again held our “Christmas Extravaganza” with Stannington Brass Band. We had a huge audience and an excellent concert. 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 2025.
- iv) On Good Friday, the choir gave a liturgical performance of Dvorak’s *Stabat Mater*, accompanied by West Riding Ensemble.



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 former Directors of Music Ian Roberts and Andrew Kirk as well as various other 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



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, around the font and in the church porch. Volunteers also provided spring flowers arranged in decorative jars or baskets for the window sills.

The theme for harvest was 'The parable of the weeds'. We used glass jars to arrange seed heads, berries, fruits and sunflowers to replicate hedgerows together with a tied bunch of wheat on each window sill.

At Christmas we used phormium, red carnations, gold pine cones, gold spayed crocosmia seedhead and fatsia leaves with foliage from members gardens to create our arrangements for the pedestals and font. On the window sills we used poinsettia plants placed in a large bowl surrounded by garden foliage and red spray carnations with battery operated candles on each side of the arrangements. In the porch we used small potted Christmas trees planted in compost with baubles and stars and battery operated lights. We have since planted the Christmas trees in our gardens to use again.

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

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 join our friendly rota so please do contact either Sandra Green or Jackie Lowe if you are interested.

## Study Groups

The year we have run three study groups and also a Quiet Morning in Advent.

In September, Rev Peter Das started a term time fortnightly study group at his home. It was based on the Gospel reading for the previous Sunday and ended with Compline. This group was generally well attended. The group was paused at the end of November for Advent and started again in January, running until Lent.

In Advent we ran a three week study group on a Thursday afternoon in the Parish Centre. This was led by Rev Alison Wragg and Sandra Green. We based our study on four stories from Paula Gooder's book 'Women of the Nativity'. This was well attended.

Rev Alison Wragg also organised an Advent Quiet Morning in church on the second Study in Advent. Two stories from Paula Gooder's book were used, each followed by a time of reflection using prayer stations based around the church. The morning finished with a silent Eucharist (led by Alison) which many of us found very moving. This was well attended and people appreciated this time of quiet reflection in the busy build-up to Christmas.

In Lent, we used 'The Sacraments' by Jane Williams for our studies. Initially we offered two groups - Tuesday evening and Thursday afternoon, both based in the Parish Centre. Unfortunately, there was little support for the Tuesday evening but the Thursday afternoon proved more popular.

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.

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 meets weekly throughout the year with usually a week off at Christmas, end of Summer and Easter. We have an excellent team of volunteers who support the club so well and are very committed. The cooks, helpers and Anne Ward are a fabulous team who just turn up every week and deliver delicious homemade meals for everyone. Rosie Gregory and Trudie Kelly provide invaluable pastoral support with the clergy.



This year we have had 11 people on our rota complete Level 2 Food Safety training and 17 completed level 1 Food Safety Training. We also achieved Food inspection from the environmental health officer and were awarded a level 5! This is a testament to the commitment of everyone involved.



The committee for the lunch club is accountable to the PCC and we meet 3 times per year to discuss the business of the lunch club. We are very fortunate to have received another grant for 2024 from Sheffield Council which helps massively towards the cost of running the club including the escalating costs of food and transport. We have a volunteer driver “John” who we all appreciate so much as he gives up his time to drive the community transport bus for us each week. Our Lunch Club provides a vital lifeline for elderly members of our community, offering much more than just a meal. It creates a welcoming, social environment where people can connect, combat loneliness, and improve their overall well-being.

#### Key Benefits of the lunch club:

- ✓ **Reducing Social Isolation:** Many of our members live alone and may go days without meaningful social interaction. Our Lunch Club provides a friendly, supportive space where they can enjoy regular companionship, laughter, and conversation.
- ✓ **Promoting Physical & Mental Well-being:** Good nutrition is essential for older adults, and our club ensures members receive a nutritious meal while also engaging in light physical activities, games, and discussions that help keep minds active and spirits high.
- ✓ **Building a Stronger Community:** The club fosters a sense of belonging and support among members. Friendships form, reducing feelings of loneliness and improving mental health.
- ✓ **Providing Practical Support:** We offer signposting to local services, health advice, and transport assistance for those with mobility challenges, helping members remain independent and connected to their community.



- ✓ **Creating Enjoyable Experiences:** We celebrate special occasions, invite guest speakers, and organise activities that bring joy and excitement, ensuring that every member feels valued and included.

Running the club each week ensures we can continue making a real difference in the lives of our elderly members, ensuring they have a safe, warm, and welcoming place to enjoy nutritious meals, companionship, and community support.

We are always looking for new members and transport can be arranged locally. If you or you know someone who would like to come along please get in touch with Claire in the parish office.

Claire Webber



## Eco Church



As was so clearly summarised in the March issue of Inspire, we are now in our 6th year as members of the Eco Church movement and are currently one of 13 churches with a silver award out of 75 registered in the Diocese. The award is based on a self-declared survey of 5 areas of our Parish life. The carbon footprint and nature of our church building mean the gold standard in this area is challenging! The building project will help with this, and we will keep working on it where we can, but our efforts are mainly focused on working towards Gold in the other areas of Worship/Teaching, Community Engagement, Lifestyle and Land.

A Rocha, the international organisation that started the movement recently revised the questionnaire, so we will be revisiting this and addressing the new criteria. One area where we have been active is in land management of our churchyard and Parish Centre garden. The church grassland has been a wildflower meadow for the past five years and each year we discover new species in our annual survey in June. Last year's survey involved the whole congregation, as part of a creation-tide morning service. Helen and Cathy also did the RSPB bird count in the Parish Centre Garden.

Wildflowers are key to attracting insects because they are a useful source of nectar, as is our Coronation year crab apple tree. Insects attract birds and increase wildlife diversity. One feature essential to birds and wildlife is water, so we have started creating a pond in the Parish Centre garden to attract insects and birds. They also attract young people, so the site has been chosen with safety in mind.



One other major change is in how we display flowers each week in church. Floral foam (Oasis) is carbon 'heavy' and a source of micro-plastics, so our flower team use a variety of techniques to replace floral foam including wire netting, pin holders and imaginative use of jam jars. Last year's Harvest window displays used these simple techniques to great effect. Three team members attended a 'Sustainable Church Flowers' morning demonstrating the new techniques and mechanics that are available, hosted by St Luke's Church.



Claire Eaton, Children's Ministry lead, introduced creation care into Sunday teaching and young people are part of the pond building team. Our choristers fundraised for pond materials, alongside twinning the church toilet. Many thanks to Rowan Ireland for his help, including a lot of digging!



Work in the coming year will centre on the new Eco Church survey questionnaire, including an emphasis on personal lifestyle. We have had some new members recently which is great, please get in touch if you would like to help.

John Green and Cathy Rhodes.

## Ranmoor Ringers

### People:

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

We still get occasional visits from Sheffield University ringers who are always welcome. We have 3 ringers away at Universities who ring with us in their holidays.

### Ringling:

The numbers available for ringing have been very variable on some Sundays ranging from 6 to others with 13.

Practise nights are generally well attended and have been started with a practice from 7 to 7.30 for learners. We are steadily building up our method repertoire and have progressed to more Major methods on 8 bells and sometime are able to ring on the 10 bells.

Weddings this year have been more than in previous years and we are looking at 10 for this season. We have managed to cover all the weddings but weekday weddings do rely more heavily on our retired contingent.

We have not had any quarter peals during the year which is unusual and we need to improve on this during this year.

We have had many enquiries for Peals and have tried to 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.

I would like to see if we can have a Saturday morning occasional practice on method ringing for just an hour, to give us the opportunity to ring a method for longer than Tuesday night practice time permits.

### Events:

The Heritage Open Day - 2024 was a very quiet affair with very few people visiting the tower.

There was no outing this year - we need to reinstate this in 2025.

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.

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 this is my last year as Tower Captain, and we have not been able to find a willing replacement, I have agreed to carry on as Captain.

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 2025

## Report of the Pastoral Care Group

The Pastoral Care Group has met five times during 2024-2025

**Members of the Pastoral Care Group during 2024 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. Revd Peter Das has also attended some meetings. Matthew and Alison play a key role in guiding our work and along with Peter they visit and offer 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
- Gillian Stanley and Mandy Stockley have kept in touch or visited members of St Johns who are no longer able to attend services

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

## **Areas of pastoral care covered since April 2024**

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 continues 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 Anne Ward who has continued to organise the volunteer rota and help at the lunch club for more than 20 years. Her work is much appreciated. The funding towards the Lunch Club costs which was secured from the City Council in 2023/24 has continued during 2024 and 2025 and is a vital contribution towards the cost of transport and other activities.

In August 2024 we once again continued the Wednesday lunches over the summer holiday period giving the regular volunteers a well earned break. We recruited a team of volunteers not normally involved in the Wednesday lunches but the take up was smaller this year and we are considering an alternative plan to keep in touch with members during the summer holiday break in 2025.

Home Communion continues to be supported by clergy and a group of volunteers. A communion service takes place each month in all three of the care homes in the parish. We are grateful to all who are involved in this important ministry.

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

A Harvest Festival service took place in all the care homes in our Mission Area. This was organised by the Dementia Awareness Group for the Mission Area.

### **Thanks and Looking Ahead**

We continue to be thankful for the many 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.

Thanks 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.

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 Revd Alison Wragg 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 and Alison Wragg on behalf of the Pastoral Care Group.  
March 2025

## Dementia Matters

The Dementia Core Group of The 3 Spires Mission Area (St Mark's, St Mary's and St John's) has continued to meet to explore ways of increasing awareness of dementia in our churches and church communities. This has allowed the group to explore broad ideas while allowing each individual church to deliver them according to their individual wishes and needs. There was, for example, a Core Group agreement that the special dementia friendly harvest service, which had previously taken place at St Mark's, would instead take place in the individual care homes in our parishes. This would enable more people further along the dementia pathway to attend a harvest service, planned by volunteers from the local church, in consultation with the activity coordinator of each particular home. St John's led services at The Laurels and Limes, Darwin House and Bridgedale House. The services took place in October 2024.

In May 2024 during Dementia Action Week St John's used the side chapel for a reflective dementia awareness display. The theme was "Forget **Me** Not"-to see the person underneath all those dementia symptoms, by looking at dementia through the eyes of those on the dementia pathway and carers, using poems and prayers written by them. The placing of the display on the altar in the chapel gave spiritual depth to the reflections of those who visited. During the Sunday service that week the children's group explored books written for children about dementia.

It is planned to repeat the reflective opportunity this May using some additional poems and prayers written by those with dementia and carers. This year all the poems and prayers have been offered to St Mark's and St Mary's for their use during Dementia Action Week. This acts to illustrate our joint support for raising dementia awareness.

Jenny Stephenson from St John's has kindly illustrated a forget me not prayer card and a number of them will be available at each church to take home.

The Core Group commitment to send Christmas and Easter cards to each resident in the care homes in our parishes continues. The cards are designed by each church in rotation but used by all 3 churches.

During a recent meeting of the Core Group it was suggested that we should spread our experience of working with dementia in a church setting a little wider by offering an article on "Person

Centred Spiritual Care in Dementia” for the March edition of the Healing and Wholeness newsletter of the Sheffield diocese. This article included input from St John’s and St Mark’s and is now available to read online.

The understanding of the importance of increasing our dementia awareness is now growing and two members of St John’s staff decided that they wanted to join the (excellent) Dementia Stars training and have now earned the highest level Gold Star. Well done to Alison Wragg and Claire Webber.

Wendy Weeks 13/03/25

## The Sunday Social

The Sunday Social has continued to run in the Parish Centre on the fourth Sunday of the month after the morning service at St John’s. It provides a further time of fellowship for those of any age attending the service who live alone. It lasts until about 3pm. A tasty 2 course lunch is provided and after lunch there is plenty of time to explore table top games and jigsaws or just chat with friends. Nothing is competitive, just a lot of fun. There is a lot of laughter and we have a very regular following but we can accommodate a few more if you would like to come. Home made cakes and tea/coffee are served just before departure at 3pm. The cost is £5.50 to cover the cost of the food and any surplus is donated to the church funds. Over the last year this donation has been approximately £35-£50 each month. “First timers” can attend free.

Our thanks go to the helpers without whom the Sunday Social would not be possible. If anybody is interested in joining us please contact Janet or Wendy, or Claire in the office.  
Janet Anker and Wendy Weeks.

## Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Group aims to increase the chances of the vulnerable in our society both locally and globally. meets rough three times a year. We try to support each other in our work and liaise between different groups. Our meetings have been well attended.

Ageing awareness: Krys Chandler has helped us all in understanding and living with the ageing process. The September Day on ageing was well attended and appreciated.

Annual giving to charities: The church gives away 5% of its income to national and international charities. The Social Justice Group often advises the PCC on the pattern of our giving.



Baby Basics: Susan Hepworth continues to organise this collection of clothes and equipment for babies in need. Matthew has been delivering donations.

Cancer charities: Claire Webber holds regular cake stalls in aid of Weston Park. She has involved the Brownies who are keen to be involved. In September 2024 the cake-stall in aid of Weston Park raising £450.

Children's Society: Jackie Lowe continues to organise our support for this charity. The Children's Society boxes for 2024 and Christingle collection raised £236.

#### Christian Aid

- Janet Anker continues to lead our Christian Aid Work with the continual assistance of Malcolm Anker and Pauline Heath.
- In 2024 St John's raised a significant amount for Christian Aid. £ 3,375.
- In 2025 our focus is on Guatemala. We continue to collect during Christian Aid Week though many parishes no longer do this. We would welcome more deliverers of envelopes.
- This year's events include a sponsored walk Sunday 11th May organised by Alan Heath; a Gala concert Friday 16th May organised by Sarah Beardsmore; the Big Breakfast Saturday 17th May coordinated by Janet Anker; a sale of individual meals and preserves to the Wednesday lunch club by Pauline Heath and Janet Anker.
- The Watch party in March at St Gabriel's informed us about Guatemala with updates on humanitarian aid. The opportunity to share ideas with other parishes about how we plan Christian Aid was useful.



#### Dementia Awareness

Wendy Weeks continues to offer ongoing support to members of our congregation, She raises our awareness of how people with dementia can be supported.

- Wendy is planning in 2025 a display similar to the one she organised for the 2024 Dementia Awareness Week, but with the addition of new prayers and poems and some beautifully illustrated prayer cards by Jenny Stephenson. Mathew is exploring the possibility of extending the display to St Mark's, and St Mary's if they wish to be involved.
- Dementia Stars: Alison Wragg and Claire Webber have found the training in dementia awareness with Dementia Action Sheffield, extremely useful and recommend anyone to attend. Three sessions and free. Alison is attending the core group meeting to promote interest in the course.

Eco Church: St John's Eco Church group has submitted a separate report.

#### Parish lunches

Wednesday lunches are held throughout the year are enormously welcome and successful, offering not only food but community to many who would otherwise be isolated. We average 20 weekly. 4 come by bus regularly. These transport costs use up nearly all the Council grant. In the inspection by the Head of Sheffield Voluntary Sector we did very well indeed. Audited by both the Council ('Gold star') and the Environmental Health Officer (5/5). There is a huge decline in Council funded lunch clubs because of the burden of training and paper work so St John's so we are glad we can sustain this work.

We now also offer monthly Sunday lunches, usually on the fourth Sunday. These are for people who live on their own. This is flourishing.

## Burngreave Foodbank

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has faithfully contributed to our **fortnightly collections** for **Burngreave Foodbank**, as well as our special **Christmas** and **Harvest** drives. Over the past 12 months, your generosity has resulted in an incredible **3,995.65kg of food donated**—the equivalent of around **9,431 meals**.

Thanks to your unwavering support, **St John's** was not only the **3rd highest donor** overall, but also the **largest individual donor by far**. The Foodbank team has been overwhelmed by this act of love and support—they simply couldn't believe the scale of what you've given.

Your kindness has made a real difference during what was the **busiest year ever** for the Foodbank. Many families who found themselves struggling have been helped because of **your faithfulness and compassion**.

Let's continue to stand in the gap for those in need. Every tin, every packet, every donation matters. If you haven't joined in yet, now's a perfect time. Together, we are making a powerful impact in our community—and that's something to celebrate.



**Thank you for being such a generous and faithful church. Let's keep it going**

Claire Webber

## 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, Sue Coombe, Norma Barnsley 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. With ever increasing printing costs and a reduced number of advertisers, the cost of the magazine has recently been increased to a suggested donation of £1.50. The magazine still represents good value and it is an important part of the Church's mission to reach out to the community. Whilst some people prefer reading the digital version, there are many who still prefer the hard copy. 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, Cathy Rhodes and Roy Stanley, who are regular contributors.

Philip Walshaw



## Christian Aid

The 2024 appeal was for help to those affected by climate change and famine in Burundi, and to support them in their efforts to grow their food and their businesses. We featured Aline, who with the help and advice which Christian Aid was able to bring, was eventually able to build her own house and grow her business sufficiently well to be able to sustain her, even in the most difficult of circumstances.



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 and published the publicity, to Pauline Heath, who helped co-ordinate everything, 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! Among them were Susan and Philip Walshaw who organised another highly successful Plant Sale, and the Guides and Brownies with their sweets and tombola. The concert raised £410.90, and the Brig Brekkie £1,000. Pauline Heath also met the 70k sponsored challenge, and raised £560 in sponsorship. In addition, donations were received through the envelopes and the card machines.

The total was a magnificent £3,335.26!

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



## Safeguarding

At St John's, we are committed to ensuring that our church is a place where everyone feels safe, respected, and protected. We want our 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 set out by the **\*\*House of Bishops\*\***, working to protect both children and adults from harm.

### Child Protection and Speaking Up

We take child protection seriously. Every child has the right to be safe and feel safe. All activities involving children are carefully planned, and we ensure that DBS checks, risk assessments, and parental consent forms are in place.

If you see or hear something that doesn't feel right, or if something makes you uncomfortable, please speak up. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility—no concern is ever too small. You can talk to me directly, or speak to a member of the clergy, a churchwarden, or any PCC member. All concerns are treated with care, sensitivity, and confidentiality.

### Adult Safeguarding

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

**Church should be a place where everyone feels supported and safe. If you or someone you know needs help, please don't hesitate to reach out.**

### Training and Oversight

- Our Safeguarding Policy is reviewed and updated each year by the (PCC), and safeguarding is a regular item on the PCC agenda.
- As your independent Parish Safeguarding Officer, I have completed extensive training and keep up to date with safeguarding guidance and best practice.
- All church officers—including clergy, wardens, PCC members, and group leaders—are required to complete safeguarding training appropriate to their role.
- We carry out risk assessments for all church activities, maintain updated DBS checks, run first aid training, and ensure the use of media and personal information follows best safeguarding practice.
- We've also have registration forms for all children's and adult groups, and we respond quickly to any changes in safeguarding legislation.



Thank you to everyone in our church community for playing your part in keeping St John's safe. Whether it's staying informed, attending training, or being willing to speak up, your support helps make our church a secure and welcoming place for all.

Claire Webber, Parish Safeguarding Officer



Speak up confidentially  
Contact Claire Webber  
[safeguarding@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk)  
0114 230 1199  
[www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk/safeguarding](http://www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk/safeguarding)

## Weddings

St John's has long been a cherished setting for weddings, and we feel privileged to be part of such a meaningful moment in couples' lives. Many who marry here become part of our church family, with around half joining the Electoral Roll as they prepare for their special day. Others choose St John's because of a qualifying connection, such as having lived in the parish or through family ties—like parents or grandparents having been married here.

In 2024, we held 8 weddings, which is fewer than usual. This reflects a wider trend across the Church of England, where many parishes are seeing a dip in wedding numbers following the COVID-19 pandemic. For many couples, ongoing financial pressures and a sense of caution around large events have understandably affected decisions about when and how to marry.



However, we're encouraged by the number of weddings already booked for later this year and into 2025, and we're hopeful that 2024 was just a temporary dip.

As always, we offer our very best wishes to every couple getting married at St John's—this year and beyond. Whether planning something grand or simple, we are here to support and celebrate with you couples and their families every step of the way.

## Social Events

The Committee at St John's Church, Ranmoor, has actively convened throughout 2024, 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 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 2024

- **Scissors, Paper, Stone:** This flagship programme for 2024 featured a diverse schedule of events and is designed to engage both the church family and the broader community. Details and updates are available through the church's website and social media
- **Christian Aid Week (May):** The Committee has been involved in organizing and supporting activities during this important week, aligning with the church's commitment to social justice.
- **Bishop's Garden Party (June):** Members have contributed to the planning and execution of this annual event.
- **Musical Programme:** Throughout the year, the Committee has supported various musical events as part of the church's cultural outreach.
- **Any Questions** - Refreshments for the BBC Radio 4 Any questions which took place at St Johns.
- **Social Event Talks & Future Planning:** Talks and social gatherings have been held, with ongoing plans for 2025 events—including afternoon teas and a summer fair—geared towards supporting the church's building project.

**Leadership and Membership** - Peter Wozencroft served as chairperson until November 2024. The Committee expresses gratitude for his leadership, enthusiasm and excellent coordination over the past year. The group is now seeking a new chair and welcomes new members interested in contributing to its work.

**Looking Ahead** - The Committee remains committed to fostering community, supporting church projects, and delivering a varied programme of events. Plans for 2025 are underway, with continued emphasis on inclusivity and engagement within both the church and the wider community. This coming years plan include social evenings (Talks), afternoon tea and a summer fair. All proceeds will go to the Save our Spire appeal.

## 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

### The aims of the community history project: Scissors Paper Stone

The community history project, Scissors Paper Stone, was launched in the autumn of 2023 at the suggestion of the vicar, Matthew Rhodes. It has served two purposes:

- A. to use **the history of the church** as a springboard for exploration of the history of the community of which it is a part
- B. to explore the ways that our **church building can become a community resource**.

### 2024 The history of St John's was shared a variety of ways

The following events attracted over 500 people. Pauline Heath played a major part in ensuring the church was open throughout the June exhibition. For most of our events, refreshments, including home-baked cakes, were available. The army of bakers was organised by Janet Anker. The money raised covered the fees of visiting speakers and more.

#### Tours

Local children from uniformed groups and St Marie's were guided through the church by Liz Dwyer and Mary Grover with the aid of a specially designed children's booklet.

#### Concerts

Victorian drawing room music was performed by members of the church choir to accompany Loveday's talk on Newton Mappin.

Sacred music, sung by the church choir directed by Philip Collin, was performed at the launch of Margaret Bennett's exhibition.

#### Exhibitions and art works

Margaret Bennett's exhibition, 'Sacred Stones', was opened by the Lord Mayor. The sale of these beautiful paintings raised over £2,500 which Margaret donated to the church, in particular for the saving of the spire.



James Stone created a video of the images of our mason's marks, found by Mark Gregory in the triforium. This played on the pillars of the church. **Talks**

- All the talks listed were promoted by flyers designed by Sarah Beardsmore, most printed in the parish office by Claire Webber. Social media and local history groups have circulated news of these events.
- **Topics** have included: the origins, funder, builders and sculptors of St John's and the geology of the stones from which it is constructed.
- **Speakers** have included: local historians Sue Roe, Loveday Herridge, Val Hewson, Sylvia Dunkley and geologist Scott Engering.

## The Scissors Paper Stone blog

Hosted on the church website, this fortnightly blog updates visitors on our research. It was begun in February 2024. There have been a number of different contributors. It is designed by Sarah Beardsmore. Our church administrator, Claire Webber makes it accessible and provides useful links with other sites. Claire also prints out paper copies of the blogs which are posted on a noticeboard in church. Copies can be taken away and read at home. To find the blog click [here](#). There are now over 20 blog posts published. Philip Walshaw also publishes regular articles by us in *Inspire*.

## 2025

Entitled ‘**Scissor makers, bookmakers and home-makers: who made the new community of Ranmoor?**’ our programme is underway. The pew rental map of 1891 is the springboard for our research this year. Our speakers include Julie Banham on the taste of wealthy parishioners, Judith Pitchforth on the grand mansions of the parish, Mary Grover on the way Ranmoor partied. Jane Bartholomew’s walking talk, ‘A Pint and Pint at Ranmoor Market’ is already sold out. Kate Fauks, an academic and senior community group organizer, gave our team of researchers superb support at a meeting in March. As a result The Scissors Paper Stone team is working more closely together.

Our exhibition, organised by Margaret Bennett and Rowan Ireland is called ‘**Unseen**’. It has already attracted many contemporary artists to submit artworks reflecting the realities of life for those members of our community who were not wealthy enough to buy sittings in our pews but upon whose work the wealthy depended. Local historians, Alan Crutch and Keith Pitchforth are leading a will workshop during the exhibition. This will enable participants to gain tools for this kind of research and help us understand more about domestic relations in Ranmoor in the nineteenth century. Julian Sullivan and his friends will provide jazz for our final celebration. The church will be open throughout the exhibition and the children’s trail on offer.

## Tech Team

Both Sunday morning and evening services continue to be streamed on YouTube, with the exception of the all-age service. We have also continued to broadcast weddings, funerals and concerts on request.

Following repeated failure of the old TOC radio mic system during services, we have replaced our 2 lapel microphones and 2 handheld mics with high-quality equipment from Shure. This has been made possible by a generous donation from a member of the congregation.

While there have been a few teething issues with installing the new mics, particularly around rearrangement of receivers to improve signal coverage, these appear to have mostly settled. I am grateful for the congregation’s patience throughout this process.

We have also reinstated the wired stall mics for the clergy to use at evensong, which provide a clearer sound quality compared to wireless microphones.

## Wardens, Duty Wardens and Sides People

### Wardens and Duty Wardens

Pauline Heath  
 Mark Gregory\*\* \*  
 John Green  
 Carl Webber  
 Peter Wozencroft

### Senior Sides-persons

Sandra Green  
 Chris Lewis  
 Anthea Priestley  
 Barbara Wozencroft

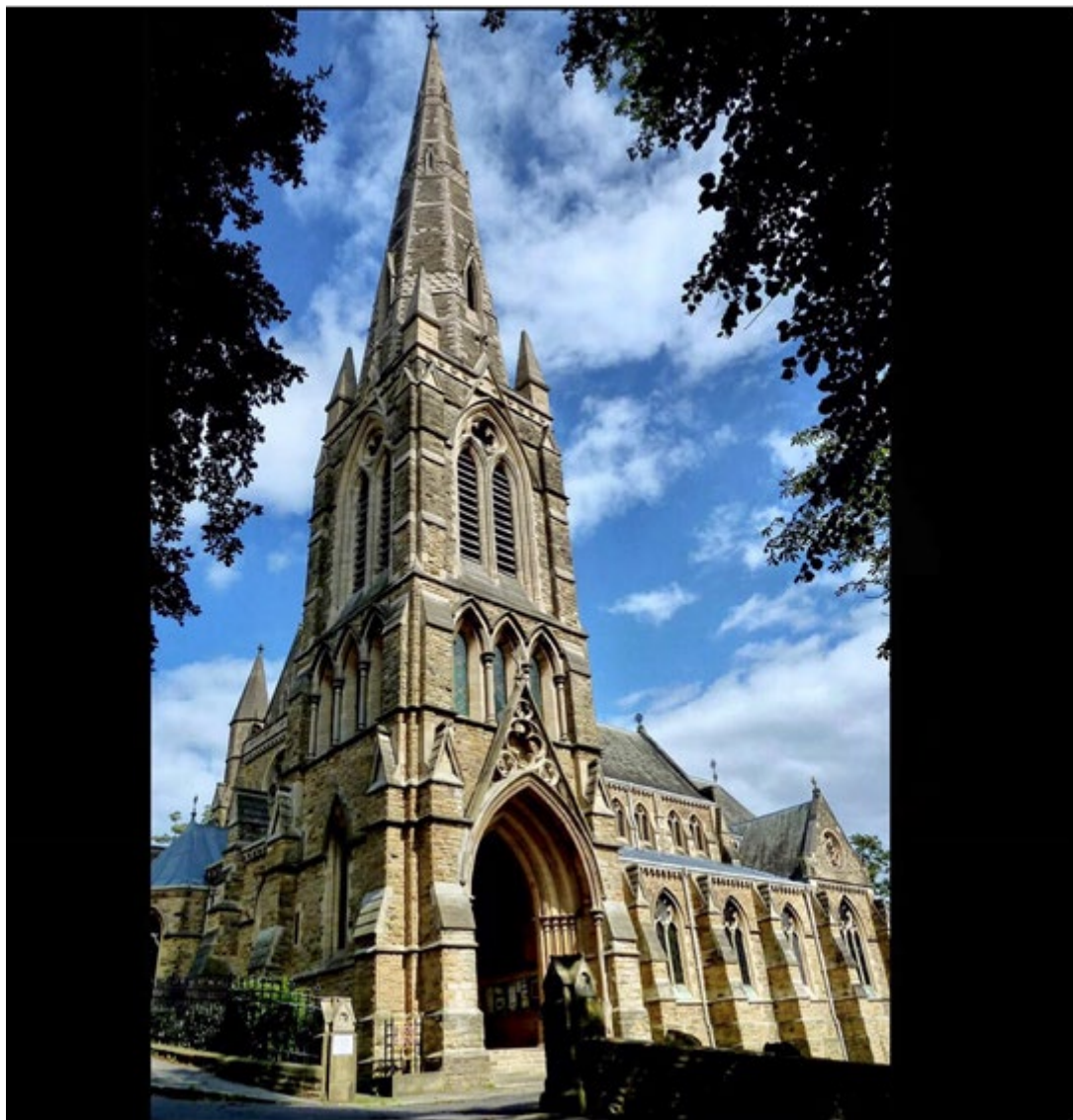
### Sides-persons

Janet Atkinson  
 John Biggin\*  
 Krys Chandler  
 Peter Chatterton  
 Nigel Edmonds  
 Susan Hepworth  
 Chris Lewis  
 Peter Lowe  
 Peter Marrison\*  
 Morag Shaw \*  
 Mandy Stockley  
 Pat Thompson  
 Wendy Weeks \*

Deborah Bower  
 David Booker  
 Norma Chatterton  
 Pam Cooper\*  
 Rosie Gregory\*  
 Trudie Kelly  
 Jill Lewis  
 Jackie Lowe  
 Becky Marsh  
 Gillian Stanley  
 Veronica Sullivan  
 Claire Webber  
 Graham Woods

\* Evensong \*\* All Age

Thank you to everyone for your contributions.



[www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk)

**Contact Us:**

Ranmoor Parish Centre  
5 Ranmoor Park Road  
Sheffield  
S10 3GX  
0114 230 1199

[administrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk)