



INSPIRE

**St John's Church
Ranmoor, Sheffield**

**September
2025
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Scissors Paper Stone

St John's Church, Ranmoor

The Sheffield Code

Domestic taste in eighteenth
and nineteenth century Sheffield

A talk by Dr Julie Banham

South facing and away from the smoke and grime of the town, from the mid-nineteenth century, Ranmoor began to attract Sheffield's leading industrialists, manufacturers and professional classes as an ideal location to build their mansions and villas.

In contrast to the consecutive peer-reviewed and approved styles of the eighteenth-century found in homes to the east and centre of Sheffield, the nineteenth century heralded the Battle of the Styles with the fear the nouveau riche would fail to deploy good taste. How did Sheffield respond?



Saturday 6th September
5.30pm at St John's Church

*Refreshments will be available
before the talk.*

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www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

St John's Church, Ranmoor

Parish Office, Ranmoor Parish Centre,
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Tel: 0114 230 1199

Website: www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

St John's Church is a community whose vocation is to extend to all people the same welcome that we ourselves have received from God in Christ. Our worship, enriched by our strong musical and choral traditions, is at the heart of our community's shared life. The gospel calls us to lives of discipleship, informed by reflection and marked by care for one another, by a passion for justice, and by a commitment to the service of our local and wider community.

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Foreword



It's good to be back in harness after my sabbatical. You can find out what I have been doing in both this and the October editions of Inspire. The word 'sabbatical' relates to the word sabbath of course – a time of rest and worship. I hope that you have been able to find time for rest and refreshment during the summer and that you have been able to renew your relationship with God. In all the busyness of life we

can sometimes lose sight of the one who made us and loves us just as we are.

I return from my sabbatical with a deep feeling of gratitude for all the experiences that Cathy and I had and all the people that we met. I hope that you have things to be thankful for as the summer draws to a close. This month marks Creationtide in the church when we give thanks for the wonder of God's world and commit ourselves afresh to caring for it. The last Sunday of September (28th) is our Harvest Festival when we give thanks for all the wonderful food we enjoy and bring our contributions for the Food Bank.

We have had some wonderful weddings during the summer and there are still a few to come. One of the readings which couples have chosen is relevant not just to those getting married but to all of us. It includes this verse:

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Colossians 3.15

Matthew

My Sabbatical: Part I

by Matthew Rhodes

This summer, I marked thirty years as priest in the Church of England. I have been Vicar of St John's Ranmoor for seven years and while I love what I do, life can be very busy. So it felt good to have the opportunity to take a sabbatical. I am enormously grateful to the Revd Alison Wragg and all those who worked so hard while I was away.

My sabbatical included a five week visit with Cathy, to the United States. Twenty-five years ago, I left Egypt after three years as a chaplain in Cairo. Our trip to the United States included a reunion of members of my mainly American congregation which took place in Alexandria, a suburb of Washington. Our visit to the United States also felt significant in that it took place shortly after the election of the first American pope and ended shortly after a controversial military parade in Washington. It felt as if we were in America at an historically significant moment. One of the many blessings of this time was that it reawakened my interest in history which I studied as an undergraduate.

Our trip included Boston, Vermont, New York and New Jersey, Washington and Grand Rapids, Michigan. Though this involved travelling long distances, it only represents a small portion of the vast country that is the United States. During our trip, I visited a number of churches with strong choral traditions like that of St John's. I wanted to see what I could learn from them as we look beyond our current building project. Though I experienced some wonderful, well resourced, music in

America, I was also reminded of how good the music at St John's is and what a gift this is.



My first visit was to Trinity Church, Boston. The Hutchings family joined St John's Ranmoor from there and I was keen to make the connection. Trinity boasts an impressive choir and a strongly liberal and inclusive tradition. We heard an excellent

sermon which was surprisingly political. Though there is a separation of church and state in America, we often experienced a blurring of the boundaries. At a time when many liberals in the United States feel beleaguered and a new Democratic leader has yet to appear, the church can sometimes be a focus of opposition to the current administration. After the service at Trinity, there was an excellent Bible study led by a member of the clergy. It would be good to do more of this sort of thing at St John's.



On Memorial Weekend, the American equivalent of Remembrance Sunday, I visited my godfather's Roman Catholic Church in Holliston, outside Boston. My godfather has been involved with the finances of his church which has an annual turnover of more than \$1 million. Churches in the United States tend to be much more business-like than they are in the UK. A friend talked about how the church is a franchise and those who lead it need to know their 'market'. American consumerism is often reflected in church life and there are fewer safety nets for churches than we have in England. Though this has many downsides, it is something that we need to be aware of as we think about the future of St John's.

From Boston, we travelled to New York and New Jersey where we met up with our daughter and her partner. We stayed with someone my wife Cathy had grown up with in Iran. She and her husband still move between the two countries and they gave us an insight into the challenges of belonging to countries that are at odds with one another. The husband travelled to Iran shortly afterwards but his wife and daughter were not able to join him because of the deterioration in relations between the two states.

In New York, I went to a lunchtime Mass at St Thomas' Fifth Avenue. It has a well-known choir but unfortunately our timetable meant that it was not possible to



hear them. What I did take from the service was the importance of intercessory prayer which is another important part of our life at St John's.



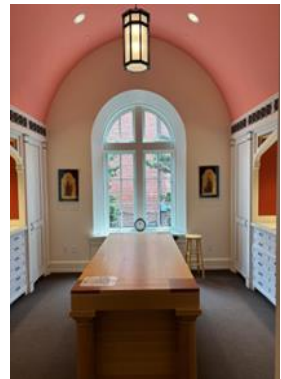
Cathy and I also visited the Cathedral of St John the Divine. It has had some important moments in its history, such as when it welcomed migrants from many nations and stood alongside those with AIDS in the 1980s and '90s. From New Jersey, we travelled to Alexandria in Washington where the reunion took place. It was so good to see faces from the past. In our many conversations, it became clear that our time in Egypt had been very special for the church as well as for us as a family. Many of those we met had worked for USAID which was being dismantled by the

Trump Administration. They were unhappy about the direction that their country was taking and our visit was in part a pastoral one.



On two Sundays, we worshipped at Immanuel on the Hill, the church attached to Virginia Theological Seminary. I was invited to robe and read the Gospel and Cathy joined the choir. We were reminded of the importance of welcome and of diversity which was evident in the congregation. Immanuel burnt down in 2015 and the new church boasts an impressive vestry. I was

more than a little envious! Hospitality was also evident at St Paul's on K Street where I attended a weekday morning service. Afterwards, there was macaroni cheese and chocolate cake! St John's Ranmoor may not have macaroni and cheese but it is also very hospitable. My trip reminded me that we have much to be thankful for in Ranmoor. I'll tell you about the rest of my sabbatical in next month's magazine.



From the Editor's Chair



Seasons come, Seasons go was a song written and recorded by Bobby Gentry in 1969 and, as we gently slide into Autumn, we need no reminding that Harvest Festival will soon be upon us, then Hallow'een and Bonfire night and, in no time, we'll be opening the doors on our Advent Calendars in preparation for.... yes, Christmas, with however many shopping days left before another year has gone!

The Four Seasons were one of my favourite pop groups of the Sixties. Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* doesn't do it for me, as I much prefer *The Seasons* by Glasunov, especially *Autumn*, but I began to wonder if I had a favourite season of the year. As much as I like the long days of Summer and the opportunities the season brings, I have a leaning towards Autumn because I am a keen forager and love to pick blackberries and apples in the wild, as well as chestnuts and hazel nuts. I also enjoy the Autumn tints that the season of mellow fruitfulness and incipient decay brings with it. The only downside is that the long, dark nights of Winter soon follow, but I do enjoy walking on cold wintry days and, of course, there's Christmas and all that goes with it.

However, I think my favourite season has to be Spring, because it fills me with optimism for what is to come in the year ahead, with all the green shoots of recovery and signs of new life. As someone once said, "where flowers bloom, so does hope". For now, though, I am looking forward to celebrating Harvest Festival at the end of the month as we give thanks for the bountiful harvest of crops and the abundance of our natural world, whilst trying to help those less fortunate than us who are hungry and starving.

Philip Walshaw

Scissors Paper Stone

The Scissors Paper Stone project welcomes an illustrious visitor

In the last year the Scissors Paper Stone research team have been scouring the archives in search of those we describe as ‘Unseen’ - those whose stories have not been told. In her search for these unrecorded lives Val Hewson came across a man who visited St John’s in the year it was first built - a visitor who usually paraded on streets much grander than Ranmoor’s.

A Special Occasion at St John’s: in which a prince, a philanthropist, 40 constables and a large dog go to church...



In October 1879, Royalty came to St John’s. Prince Leopold (1853-1884), the youngest son of Queen Victoria, was in Sheffield to open Firth College, a forerunner of the University of Sheffield. The Prince stayed at Oakbrook, the home of the industrialist Mark Firth, who was, as its name suggests, the moving force behind the new college. The visit was reported in the press extensively and with due Victorian deference. The photo shows the entrance to Firth College on the corner of West Street and Leopold Street.

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Leopold is not much remembered today. In Sheffield Leopold Street, in the city centre, was named for him but most people probably have no idea of this. He was the only one of Victoria’s



children to suffer from haemophilia (she was a carrier, as were two of her daughters) and he died at the early age of 30 after an accident. He was known as an intellectual and had studied at Christ Church, Oxford. This was perhaps why he was invited to open the new college, which



was to offer university-level teaching in the town. The Sheffield Telegraph referred to Leopold as 'England's Royal Scholar' and is depicted here as an Oxford student by Hills & Saunders (photographer). Public domain. Circa 1872.) The Huddersfield Chronicle opined:

... the nation has reason to be proud that one of the Royal scions has stepped aside from the engrossing and fascinating pursuits of politics and war, wherein kingly wisdom and valour have scope for exercise, into the quiet walks of literature and science. Prince Leopold studies, observes, and meditates. The love of learning and the cultured taste which distinguished the late Prince Consort have descended to his youngest son, and we have no doubt that if Prince Leopold be endowed with health and strength he will become one of the greatest ornaments of all that is noblest and most exalting in the national life ... (Wednesday 22 October 1879)

There were big crowds when the Prince arrived in Sheffield. He was met at Victoria Station by his host, Mark Firth, along with the Lord Mayor, the Master Cutler and a crowd of railway officials, aldermen and councillors, generally important citizens and various wives, daughters and sisters, all dressed in their best. Here is a portrait of Mark Firth by Thomas Jones Barker (public domain 1874). The station had been specially decorated, with flowers, flags and a red carpet. Ordinary Sheffielders crowded the streets, as the



Prince was driven through the town, up to Broomhill and along to Ranmoor, with an escort of police and the Yeomanry Cavalry.



Oakbrook House, the home of Mark Firth. (Courtesy of Picture Sheffield. Ref: s05492. 1875)

When it came to church on Sunday, St John's was the natural choice: very close to Oakbrook, it was the church for the community

of Ranmoor. Getting there was circumscribed by as much ceremonial as everything else in Leopold's visit (and probably in his life). Although the weather was not good, 'rain and wind prevailing during the morning', many people - thousands, according to the London Evening Standard and Manchester Courier (both Monday 20 October 1879) - had gathered to see the spectacle. 'The crowds, however, were most orderly, and appeared to be abundantly satisfied with the sight of the Prince, as he passed to and from the church. His Royal Highness could hardly have anticipated that at such a distance from the centre of the town there would be so many spectators, for he appeared both surprised and pleased; and though, of course, there was no cheering, he frequently raised his hat in acknowledgment of their silent greeting.' (Sheffield Independent, Monday 20 October 1879).

The police were, however, well prepared. 'Inspector Toulson, with one sub-inspector, four sergeants, and 40 constables, was on duty, and distributed the men on the Ranmoor road from Oakbrook to the gates, and they also lined the passage leading from the road to the church. The Chief-constable, Mr. Jackson, was in attendance, seeing that the arrangements were carried out properly'. Many of the people who had met the Prince's train the day before came to the service, including the Mayor and Mayoress; the Master Cutler; local MP Anthony Mundella; John Newton Mappin, 'who generously erected the [church] at his own

expense' and his nephews, John Cowlshaw and Frederick Thorpe Mappin.

St John's had been consecrated seven months earlier, in April 1879, and must have looked splendid that morning. The Illustrated Police News (Friday 25 October 1879) called it 'a very elegant edifice'. The grounds had been laid out by the designer Robert Marnock, who was responsible for Sheffield's Botanical Gardens and some of the local estates. The interior decoration was not finished, with the walls and reredos temporarily painted and the large windows with plain, not stained, glass. But in place were the peal of eight bells, the organ, the font of Ancaster stone and marble and the pulpit of wood and bronze, with a crimson velvet carpet leading to it.



St John's as Prince Leopold would have seen it. (Ref: s02612. Copyright © Sheffield City Archives and Local Studies Library. All rights reserved.)

This was of course the first church on the site, which was destroyed by fire in 1887.

The Telegraph reported that: 'A few minutes past eleven a murmur of excitement passed through the crowd in the lower road, and immediately afterwards Mr. Mark Firth's carriage, fully opened, entered at the lower gates, and drove rapidly up to the church.' At this point Royal dignity was affronted when: 'The inevitable dog, in the form of a large retriever, of course made his appearance, and ran in front of the carriages a short distance, but then took a turn to the left and bounded over the wall.' Order restored, Mr Cowlshaw, who was a churchwarden, met the carriages and, carrying his 'wand of office', conducted the Royal party to Mark Firth's pew.

The Telegraph called the sermon, preached by the vicar, the Rev Dr Chalmer, 'an able and eloquent address' and both it and the Sheffield

Independent reported it almost verbatim. The text was from Ezekiel xviii: 'Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel: Is not my way equal? Are not your ways unequal?'

After the blessing, the congregation remained in their seats until the Prince and his party processed out, returning by carriage to Oakbrook. 'At half-past one o'clock His Royal Highness, accompanied by his suite and Mr. and Mrs. Firth, drove up Manchester Road to Mr. Firth's shooting box on Moscar Moors...'. They returned about six o'clock and a 'private dinner party was afterwards held, at which one or two friends were present.' As it was Sunday, there had presumably been no shooting but rather a good lunch and perhaps a walk in the fresh air across the moors.

Leopold's visit to Ranmoor was remembered by Caroline, the wife of Mark Firth. In her will, signed in May 1893, two years before she died, she left to her second son, Mark, 'the pendant presented to me by His Royal Highness the late Prince Leopold'.

Unless otherwise indicated, the quotations in this blog are from the Sheffield Telegraph of Monday 20 October 1879.



Ranmoor Parish Centre Bridge Club

We meet Wednesday evening at 6.45 pm in the Parish Centre and welcome new players.

If you would like to visit, please phone John Briddon on 0114 2620501 or email: rmburdall@hotmail.co.uk

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RED SHOE WALK

Thank you to all members of St John's congregation who have so generously sponsored me to take part in the Red Shoe Walk which took place around Meadowhall last Sunday. The 3k route was intended for people of all ages and levels of fitness so that included me! The charity to benefit from the sponsorship is

the Sheffield Hospitals Charity and this year all the proceeds will be going to enhance the facilities for people with dementia who are in hospital. I believe that a sensory garden is being planned among other enhancements. I have just finished counting the money donated via me and that comes to £663 and will receive £165.75 from the government in Gift Aid making a total sum raised £828.75. This makes me feel a little guilty as I could not say that the walk was a physical challenge in any way and was really both enjoyable and reflective but as my daughter pointed out, even a small action, carefully planned, can have a large impact. That impact is £828.75 thanks to family, friends and members of St John's.

Wendy Weeks



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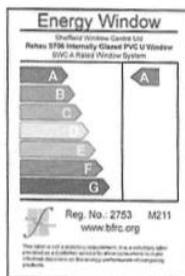
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ST JOHN'S CHURCH, RANMOOR

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Monday 1st September

7pm Service of Confirmation and Holy Communion, and the Licensing for Revd Alison Wragg to the Parish of St John the Evangelist, Ranmoor, and St Mary's, Walkley, Sheffield, taking place at St Mary's Walkley.

Wednesday 3rd September

11.30am Holy Communion in the Parish Centre

10-12.30pm Foodbank Collection from the Church Drive

12.30pm Wednesday Lunch Club

5.30pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 4th September

10am Toddler and Baby Group

Saturday 6th September

5pm Scissors Paper Stone – Sheffield Code, A talk by Julie Banham. Taking place in the Church Building Tickets £5 from Ticketsource

Sunday 7th September - 12th Sunday after Trinity

10.30am All Age Service

6.30pm Parish Communion

Wednesday 10th September

11.30am Holy Communion in the Parish Centre

12.30pm Wednesday Lunch Club

5.30pm Choral Evensong

Thursday 11th September

10am Toddler and Baby Group

Saturday 13th September

Heritage Open Day: Church open to visitors from **2pm**

Talk begins at **4pm**

Sunday 14th September 13th Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Parish Communion

2-5pm Board Games Café (Parish Centre)

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Monday 15th September

7.30pm PCC Meeting in the Annexe of the Parish Centre

Wednesday 17th September

11.30am Holy Communion in the Parish Centre

10-12.30pm Foodbank Collection from the Church Drive

12.30pm Wednesday Lunch Club

5.30pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 18th September

10am Toddler and Baby Group

Sunday 21st September – 14th Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Parish Communion

3pm Marriage of Georgina Bagnall and Tom Atkinson

6.30pm Sung Evensong

Wednesday 24th September

11.30am Holy Communion in the Parish Centre

5.30pm Choral Evensong

Thursday 25th September

10am Toddler and Baby Group

Friday 26th September

12.30pm Marriage of Rebecca Dowey and Matthew Parton

7pm Harvest Quiz and Supper

(Tickets on sale from Ticketsource or the parish office)

Saturday 27th September

Noon Marriage of Bernadette Foran and Mark Hubble

2pm Baptism of Rory and Jack Freedlander

Sunday 28th September – HARVEST FESTIVAL

Donations welcome for the Burngreave Foodbank to any of our services or events

10.30am Parish Communion

12.30pm Sunday Social in the Parish Centre

2-4pm Messy Church For Harvest (In church)

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Monday 29th September

7.30pm Sanctuary in the side chapel

Other services during the week:

Holy Communion: Every Wednesday at 11.30am in Parish Centre

Choral Evensong: Evensong Wednesdays at 5.30 pm (Choral Evensong every other week in term time)

Morning Prayer: Monday to Saturday 9am in Church and on ZOOM

Footsteps: A Sunday school children's group that meets during the Sunday morning service. Children are welcome at all of our services.

Lunch Club: meets every Wednesday in the Parish Centre. All Welcome – please book with the Parish Office

Sunday Social: Meets straight after the morning service on the 4th Sunday. Please book with the Parish Office.

Toddler Group: meets every Thursday in the Parish Centre during term time. 10-11.30am

Our Sunday Services are always in Church and on YouTube

www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk 0114 230 1199

administrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

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

Parish Registers

Please remember those who were married here recently:

Olivia Dunn and Tom Moore

Hannah Freeman and Joshua David Thompson

Oliver Charles Court and Sian Rachel Woods

Dan Wozencroft and Rosie Mooy

and the Blessing of Tirzahriaz Riaz and Dean Stan Emanuel Morel

We thank you for the gift of the life of Emily Burrill who was baptised here recently.

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

Restaurant Review: The Tickled Trout, Barlow



I'd heard of the Tickled Trout, and I knew it was in Barlow, but never had any great urge to visit and test the Trout's culinary aspirations. Barlow is a pretty fair distance from the cloistered hearth of Sheffield 10, and there are many aspiring "wannabe" gourmet eating establishments closer to home. If anyone is unfamiliar with the term "wannabe" you really need to get a life! However, never look a gift dining experience in the mouth as some erudite scribe possibly said (or probably wrote) so the offer from a friend for G and I to accompany said friend (plus friend's wife) for a "free meal" at the Trickle Trout was appealing enough to remove any excessive distance reservations. The "free" element having happened by the friend having won - in some posh raffle - an evening meal for four people at the above establishment.

The Meal (part one)

A little research (from the Trout's web site) suggested that the Trout was: "A culinary gem among Sheffield Gastro pubs". Also it was family owned, with apparently a strong belief in "food fusion" (me neither!) the

result of which seemingly presents as the crafting of “memorable experiences” (presumably of the dining variety. Although one can always hope!) in the production thereof. Pretty clumsy sentence that last one, but hopefully you should be able to get the general drift of what I’m trying to say. Anyway, in the light of this flowery rhetoric I felt it may be expedient to look for other (more independent) opinions relating to this descriptive extravaganza - just in case the paean of self-glorification may be a tad extreme! Actually, the universal oracle of advice concerning restaurants, places to stay etc. - the online “Tripadvisor”app - seemed to agree (almost) with the positive appraisal of this as provided by the Trout family ensemble. So, suitably impressed, a potentially interesting evening of culinary delights seemed to be on offer.

The Meal (part two)

I know I haven’t actually moved into food, drink or whatever yet, but I’ve quite enjoyed writing this “lead - in” bit so try and stay with me. If you are bored with the whole scene however, I’m just about to start on the actual event. Hopefully worth the wait! First impression is of a stylish restaurant (as opposed to a pub) - smart, bright, an interior with a diverse seating arrangement comprising different levels, with small alcoves, a serving bar and a quantity of cheerful and helpful staff. So far so good, as we were escorted to our table and presented with menus. Interesting food menu. First impression on actually reading the menu is the price of all dishes on offer. I know it’s a “free meal”, courtesy of our two chums, but would I be prepared to pay the prices for the various offerings? Depends totally on all the multiple elements needed to justify a successful evening of “fine (seemingly) dining”.

I decided to start with a Spanish dish - pil pil prawns. This is a popular Spanish meal involving prawns cooked in garlic and chilli infused oil which provides a spicy sea food dish. This is traditionally accompanied with fresh crusty bread. It was very good, tasty and well presented. Cost however was a toe curling £17.95. A change of country for the main course: the very French cote de porc seemed appealing as I’m a fan of pork rib. This interesting dish included kohlrabi, a strange vegetable related to the cabbage family, together with Pommes Anna -sliced layered potatoes cooked in melted butter and enhanced with a mustard

Beurre Blanc sauce. This combination was very good indeed; the only concern was the £25.95 cost. Final course was a tasty Yorkshire rhubarb pudding with vanilla cream and a blood orange sorbet at a fairly reasonable £9.95. Almost forgot to mention the shared bottle of a quaffable Argentinian Malbec red wine at a hefty £34.

Verdict

Difficult. The quality of meal, service, and general ambiance was very good. Choice of dishes for each course was also good, coupled with an eclectic mix of many different country specialities. Also, my financial outlay was zero. Taking all this into consideration, it was a very enjoyable evening. However, if I had actually paid for the meal, I guess the feeling would have been that although I had enjoyed the meal, and the evening, I'd certainly paid an awful lot of money for it.

Roy Stanley



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Rambling on – in Scotland

by Philip Walshaw

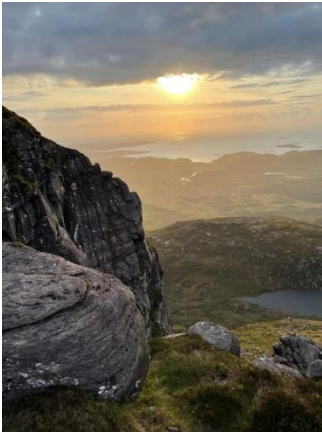


It all started in 1993. I took my wife, Susan, and our two children for what I thought would be an adventurous holiday in the north western highlands of Scotland. I had booked our accommodation in Ullapool and, after an arduous ten-hour journey north amidst constant cries of “are we nearly there yet?” (and that was only from Susan!) we eventually arrived at our destination. The weather was appalling, which was only slightly worse than our accommodation.

We stayed the night and left for pastures new the following day, but before our exit south, I insisted that we drove into the Inverpolly Nature Reserve to show what we were missing. We stopped at a viewing point and I saw the mountain featured (Stac Pollaidh) rising out of the mist and vowed to return to climb it.



It was added to my bucket list upon retirement and I had thoughts of climbing it on my 70th birthday. Covid intervened and the aspiration was fading until my two sons decided that it would be fitting to do a celebratory 76th birthday climb. In June, this year, the dream was realised.



And the dream was that we would climb up Stac Pollaidh in the early evening to have a picnic on the summit as the sun set. A big ask, we knew, considering the Scottish weather, especially as it was raining as we started the ascent but, sometimes, dreams do come true and, wow, it did - as you can see from the photographs.

Words cannot adequately describe my feelings as I took in the panoramic view from the summit. It was an idyllic wilderness of moorlands, mountains and lochans, with no sign of roads and dwellings anywhere. ‘Numinous’ would sum up my feelings; Rowan Ireland introduced me to this word in his last sermon at St John’s in July and it is quite apposite. It means “having a strong religious or spiritual quality; indicating or suggesting the presence of divinity”. I certainly felt that presence as I marvelled at the magnificent scenery, in complete silence, and contemplated its creation.



Our next day saw us walking up a mountain named Suilven, which we could see the previous evening from the summit of Stac Pollaidh. It was a mere six mile walk from

Lochinver to get to the base of the mountain and, after a stiff uphill climb (and a more difficult descent!) we were, of course, faced with a six-mile slog back to our starting point, but the experience in wonderful weather

conditions with beautiful vistas was worth every step. We even heard, and saw, a cuckoo. The following day dawned less sunny, but the call of the cuckoo was still audible, complemented by that of a nearby golden plover. Cloud covered us as we approached our summit of Cul Mor (after another six-mile walk in!). We were fairly resigned to not seeing any views from the top, when what seemed like divine intervention, the clouds parted and we could see the mountains all around us including, yes, you guessed, Stac Pollaidh...!

We reluctantly started our homeward journey via a scenic route that took us through more mountainous scenery, calling at Torridon village for lunch. We had an enjoyable picnic on the stone pews of the open-air church at Am Ploc. Sites such as this were used for worship by the nascent Free Church of Scotland after it broke away from the Church of Scotland during the Great Disruption of 1843, giving worshippers some say in the selection of their minister. With no buildings, the Free Church initially held worship in sites such as this. My two sons were in awe (my description, not theirs!) as I leapt up to the stone pulpit and gave a brief impromptu sermon based, of course, on Psalm 121.....



Telling the Tales of Sheffield's Medical Scene **by Dr Jenny Stephenson, DMHSA**

As I mentioned in previous issues, I am now a volunteer curator for Sheffield Hospitals Heritage Centre and I wanted to make some of our interesting stuff more accessible to everyone. We have a handsome collection of medical and surgical artefacts and photographs which tell the tales of Sheffield's hospitals through the years. I give new talks about our hospitals and the history of the collection, and we hold open days in Heritage week. Further events can be arranged. This is the next one of a series of objects being featured during the year.

OBJECT 9: THE IRON LUNG (1950s)



Poliomyelitis was a feared disease and occurred in epidemics each summer from about 1947. Sheffield suffered in this way, and the public demanded a vaccine. It is a cruel disease where the virus attacks the nerves, sometimes resulting in paralysis of muscles. If the nerves of the respiratory muscles were affected, the

patient, often a child, could not breathe unaided. This airtight iron lung was used in Lodge Moor hospital in the 1950's to exert pressure in waves around the patient, causing air to be sucked into the lungs then pressed out. Sometimes this paralysis got better, but sometimes a person could spend 60 years inside one.

The lifesaving polio vaccine was used for the first time in 1956 starting with young children, and at first supplies were slow to produce. However, it was an essential public health measure which saved lives, and continues to do so today, as with the other UK vaccination programmes.

Quiz: Female Christian Names

compiled by Philip Walshaw



The answers to the clues below are female Christian names. A prize awaits the person who submits the most correct answers. Send your entry by email to jpwalshaw@gmail.com or by post to 19 Cairns Road, S10 5NA to reach me by Friday, 19th September, 2025.

1. Woman appearing in new version of Hamlet (6)
2. Fired wrongly after victory (8)
3. Cover broken with Ian around (8)
4. Oh do try another way to find her... (7)
5. ...Are going a different way...(8)
6. ...She's leading 'er astray! (9)
7. Appears in a lemon I can slice (7)
8. Write before you go away (8)
9. Savings account with wrong label (8)
10. Floor covering laid around (7)
11. Fowl with strange attire (9)
12. Bad line repaired (7)
13. Sally had everyone in laughs always initially (6)
14. He joined the Board in reshuffle (7)
15. Returned a trebor mint (7)

Answers to Cathedrals Quiz:

1. Location of a 'cathedra' (Bishop's seat) 2. 42. 3. St Paul's 4. Chester 5. Winchester 6. St. Albans 7. Sheffield 8. St. Edmundsbury 9. York Minster 10. Salisbury 11. Norwich 12. Leeds 13. Gloucester 14. Oxford 15. Hereford 16. Carlisle 17. Bristol 18. Blackburn 19. Portsmouth 20. Liverpool 21. Truro 22. Peterborough 23. Wells 24. Wakefield 25. Ely 26. Birmingham 27. Coventry 28. Derby 29. Chichester 30. Chelmsford 31. Lichfield 32. Exeter 33. Guildford 34. Rochester 35. Canterbury 36. Ripon 37. Worcester 38. Durham 39. Newcastle 40. Lincoln 41. Southwark 42. Leicester 43. Manchester 44. Bradford 45. Southwell 46. Old Sarum 47. Selsey 48. Southwell and York Minsters 49. Bradford, Ripon, Wakefield 50. Blackburn, St Edmundsbury, Guildford, Rochester, Southwell and, technically, Southwark as it is in a London Borough.

Nearly totally correct entries were received from: Janet and Malcolm Anker, Pam and Ian Dall, Barbara and Peter Wozencroft.

The winners were Janet and Malcolm Anker, who receive a box of chocolates.

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Decorating the church for Harvest Festival



We will be decorating the church with flowers for Harvest on Friday 26th September from 2pm - 4pm. We usually make arrangements for the window sills, the font, the church porch and two pedestals at the front of church, so we need lots of arrangers!

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

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

Thank you,

Sandra Green (0114 2309180, sandra.green70@gmail.com)

Jackie Lowe (01142303999, jackielowe22@btconnect.com)

Contacts at St John the Evangelist, Ranmoor

Vicar: Revd Canon Dr Matthew Rhodes (07754 068391)
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Children and Families Worker:
Claire Eaton
0114 2301199 (Church Office)
claire.eaton@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

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

Church and Parish Centre Office:
5 Ranmoor Park Road, Sheffield S10 3GX
Opening Hours: 9.30am-2.30pm (Mon-Wed)

Administrator: Claire Webber (Safeguarding Officer,
Electoral Roll Officer and PCC Secretary)
(0114 2301199)
claire.webber@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Finance and Gift Aid Officer:
Mark Dakin (0114 2301199)
finance@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Treasurer: Jacky Dakin (0114 2301199)
treasurer@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Safeguarding: safeguarding@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Church Groups and Activities

Children and Young People:

Footsteps (for children up to Y6)

REACH (for young people Y7 and up)

Janet Noble 0114 2301199

footsteps@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Revd Canon Dr Matthew Rhodes

07754 068391

matthew.rhodes@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Sandra Green

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Sandra Green and Jackie Lowe

0114 2303999

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Philip Collin, Director of Music

philip.collin@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

or music@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Study Group:

Flower arranging:

Music:

Bellringers:

Tower Captain

Secretary

Richard Noble 07834 154637

towercaptain@ranmoorringers.org.uk

Gill Platt Hopkin

secretary@ranmoorringers.org.uk

contact Claire Webber - Parish

Administrator

Wednesday Lunch Club

Uniformed organisations

Ranmoor Guides:

Ranmoor Brownies:

ranmoorguides@gmail.com

Jenny Woodhouse -

ranmoorbrownies@gmail.com

36th Ranmoor Group Scout Leader and
general enquires including Hall Hire
at Benty Lane:

Michael Holmes 07802 860556

Michaelholmes1@gmail.com

Heidi Adcock heidi.adcock@me.com

Nea Maycock nea@ranmoorscouts.com

Simon Maltby

simon@ranmoor-scouts.com

District Explorers (14 to 18 yrs)
meet Friday night:

Liam Foster

liam.foster@cheshirescouts.org.uk



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Inspire

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Contributing to Inspire:

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

The deadline for contributions to the October edition is Friday, 19th September, 2025.

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Friday 26th September

7pm Harvest Quiz and Supper

£10 per ticket. Led by the quizmaster himself Pete Chatterton! Ticket price includes food and soft drink. Bring your own bottle. All proceeds to "Save Our Spire" Ticketsource or parish office.

Sunday 28th September

10.30am Parish Communion

6.30pm Choral Evensong

For more information, please contact 0114 230 1199
administrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk - www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

We would be delighted to receive donations to any of our services on the 28th September - all Donations to the Burngreave Foodbank

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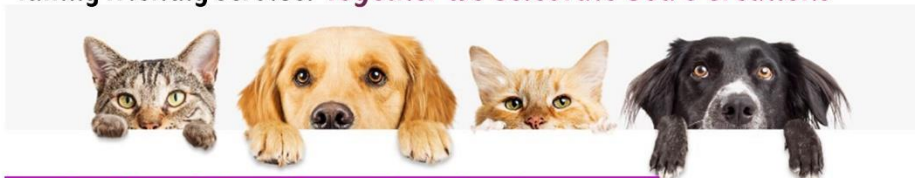


Animal Service



Sunday 5th October 10.30am

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