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Ranmoor, Sheffield**

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

Parish Office, Ranmoor Parish Centre,  
5 Ranmoor Park Road, Sheffield, S10 3GX

Tel: 0114 230 1199

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

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

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Cover photo by Philip Walshaw

**Large print versions of Inspire are available**

## Foreword



Christ is risen! Alleluia! By the time you read this, we may well have celebrated the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Day. I am delighted that this year, we are able to combine this with the baptism of baby Asher. Since the early church, many people have been baptised at Easter and sharing in this can be a wonderful reminder of the new life and forgiveness that Christ promises to us all.

By the time you read this, I may also be on my 192 mile Coast to Coast walk from St Bees to Robin Hood's Bay, raising money to restore our church spire. Thank you to everyone who has sponsored me. Please keep me in your prayers!

Easter will not be over until Pentecost on 24<sup>th</sup> May so there will still be plenty of it for me to celebrate when I return to Sheffield. These fifty days give us the opportunity to think about what it means to live in the light of the resurrection – how we can make best use of that gift of new life and forgiveness. By dying and rising again, Jesus gives us a new freedom, enabling us to live for others and sharing his light and love with the world.

I would not want to distract anyone from living out their faith beyond the church. This should be our primary focus. But as Vicar of St John's, I am also aware that in order to strengthen us for this work the church also needs to be strengthened. This year, our annual meeting takes place after the morning service on 26<sup>th</sup> April. I do hope lots of you can come as we celebrate the good work of the past year and look to the future. This is also a time when we elect new church wardens and members of

our PCC and Deanery Synod. Please consider standing for these roles or encourage others who might have gifts and time to offer.

Whether in the church or outside it, at this time of year when we see new signs of life all around us, I pray that you will find new and life-giving ways to express your resurrection faith.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

**Matthew**



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## From the Editor's Chair



In a separate article in this month's magazine, I have referenced a number of well-known idioms that have their origins in the New Testament. Surprisingly, one that isn't featured in the bible is "hope springs eternal", which is an oft-quoted phrase from Alexander Pope's poem *'An Essay on Man'*.

So much in our own lives and around us in the world might invite despair rather than hope, but we need to understand how central to our lives is the virtue of hope, even in a world that often feels chaotic and uncertain, especially when we turn on the news and see darkness and fear across our world. Easter reminds us that there's always light at the end of the tunnel; it's a reminder that even in our darkest moments, there's still reason to believe that things will get better.

I don't wish to be frivolous but, as a supporter of Sheffield Wednesday FC, I am definitely going through those emotions at the moment, but then I have to get things into perspective and remind myself that with all the conflict around us at the moment, there are people who are in a far worse situation and I cannot contemplate the ordeals that are confronting them. Jesus's disciples must have been feeling similar emotions after his death upon the cross, but perhaps the most powerful aspect of Easter is the message of hope it brings.

Easter is a time of renewal, reflection, and hope. It's a time to be reminded of the truth of Easter, embrace new beginnings, to reconnect with what truly matters, and to find comfort in the knowledge that brighter days lie ahead. So, as we celebrate Easter this year, we should do so with a heart full of gratitude and a renewed sense of optimism for the future and concur with the view of Dostoevsky that hope is to our spirits what oxygen is to our lungs; to live without hope is not to live at all. Spring is here and Spring brings eternal hope!

**Philip Walshaw**

# Striding to SAVE OUR SPIRE

***Matthew is taking on the 192 mile Coast to Coast Path to raise funds and profile of St John's project to restore the church tower and spire.***

Matthew will set out on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April to start an epic challenge covering 192 miles over 13 days on the Coast to Coast Path. The route, made famous by Alfred Wainwright, goes from St Bees in the West to Robin Hood's Bay in the East and is almost as many miles as the spire is tall in feet. It is a challenging route with over 6,000 metres of ascent. Matthew will be walking between 14 and 20 miles per day through three national parks.

This enormous effort is part of the 'Save Our Spire' campaign which was launched last year to raise a staggering £1m to restore the tower and spire of St John's. The tower and spire were added to Historic England's At-Risk Register after 'reaching critical condition requiring action to prevent complete loss'.

The spire of St John's is significant as it is the tallest of any parish church in Sheffield and its hillside position makes it a much-loved part of the Sheffield skyline. It is also the only remaining part of the original St John's Church which was built in 1879, but was destroyed by a catastrophic fire eight years later.

The restoration of the tower and spire is the first phase of the Inspire redevelopment project. The Inspire Project will improve the facilities at St John's Church so that it can be used by the wider community and the built heritage can be enjoyed. The Inspire Project includes new kitchen and toilet facilities, as well as upgrading the heating system.

Matthew hopes to raise over £5000 towards the Save Our Spire project. Matthew said, *"Our spire is an important landmark on the Sheffield skyline. After nearly 150 years it's showing signs of age and is in urgent need of repair. I am enormously grateful to everyone who is helping us preserve our spire, enabling St John's to continue serving the people of Sheffield. I'm looking forward to taking on*

*this challenge and raising the profile of the project as well as some vital funds”.*



Over £270,000 has already been raised towards the Save Our Spire appeal from donations, fundraising events and grants. But there is still a long way to go to reach the fundraising target. We're inviting others to take on their own sponsored challenges in aid of the appeal – could you stride, swim or sew to Save our Spire?

Contact [inspireprojectranmoor@gmail.com](mailto:inspireprojectranmoor@gmail.com) to find out more about how you can help.

More information about the Inspire Project can be found at [www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk/sos](http://www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk/sos) or visit the QR code to sponsor Matthew on JustGiving.

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## Remembering Trevor Page

by Peter Marrison



The library at the back of church has recently acquired from Deborah Page the very personal memoir *As It Was*, written by Trevor Page two years before he died in 2025. Trevor worshipped at St John's following retirement from his ministry in the Sheffield Diocese and Deborah has arranged for his memoir to be privately printed.

Trevor was a superb raconteur and this shines through the pages of his book. He takes us through his life from birth

in Bletchley in 1941 via boyhood, school, theological college in Cambridge, his curacy at Holy Trinity Millhouses, the University Chaplaincy, Vicar of All Saints Intake in Doncaster and Diocesan Director of Ordinands, to his last parish as Rector of St Nicholas', Bradfield.

Along the way we are introduced to a cast of memorable characters each of whom in some way left an impression on Trevor. His was a life full of incident. There are hair-raising adventures and some wonderful lines. He says of an early venture into paid employment: "The best paid job I ever did, far better than any of my occupations in the Church of England, was being a postman at Christmas." We learn of his love of a good breakfast and you feel that had not the call come to serve God as a parish priest he might have been happy in the theatre either on the stage or behind the scenes.

Do read this memoir as it is superbly written. Besides reminding us of Trevor, it's both profound and very amusing and will entertain you from start to finish.

# Tyndale's New Testament

by Philip Walshaw

I like to go the extra mile, but I sometimes fall flat on my face and lick the dust. I like to think I'm the salt of the earth. I can pour out my heart and be broken hearted when it comes to the parting of the ways. In the land of the living, flowing with milk and honey, we can eat, drink and be merry, but I am not my brother's keeper. I think I know everything under the sun, but what am I going on about? You may wonder, but read on...



These well-known phrases still in common use today can all be found in William Tyndale's translation of the New Testament into English, which happened 500 years ago this year - and its contents were nearly wiped from existence. Measuring just inches, St. Paul's Cathedral's first edition of William Tyndale's New Testament – the first ever holy book printed in English (and translated from original Greek manuscripts) – is one of just three copies that remain in the world today. A woodcut print of St

Mark from Tyndale's New Testament is featured here.

William Tyndale was a scholar and priest, but also a man who dared to challenge. Educated at both Oxford and Cambridge, Tyndale was a controversial advocate of 'personal faith' – the idea that a person should be able to have a relationship with God without the established Church getting in the way. At a time when King Henry VIII's rule over England was absolute, Tyndale's decision to take on the might of the monarch by translating the Bible was bold. In 1526, the publication of his New Testament made it available in English for the first time, and helped to bring continental Reformation ideals to the people of England.

By writing the Bible in English, Tyndale was giving all people, 'from princes to ploughboys', the chance to experience first-hand the word of

God. This empowerment of the everyman threatened the tight rule of those in power, who set about tracking down both the book and its author. Tyndale wrote that the Church authorities banned translations of the Bible in order "to keep the world still in darkness, to the intent they might sit in the consciences of the people, through vain superstition and false doctrine...and to exalt their own honour...above God himself."

Inspired to push ahead with the forbidden translations and get the Bible into the hands of the people, Tyndale had to travel to Germany – the centre of the Protestant Reformation under Martin Luther – to start printing. Betrayed, he was forced to move on to Worms and from there many copies were smuggled in to England to be read in secret. Any copies which were discovered by the authorities were burned in public, many of them at St Paul's Cathedral in a campaign led by the Bishop of London.



Living increasingly close to the edge, the authorities eventually caught up with Tyndale and he was executed near Brussels, Belgium, in 1536. Although Tyndale was captured and executed and his book mercilessly burned, the power of his words lived on and the book has had a lasting linguistic impact. Of the thousands of copies smuggled into England during Tyndale's lifetime, only three have survived. One is held by St Paul's Cathedral, and, in keeping with its earlier contraband status, it arrived in the Cathedral surreptitiously; its true

nature was unappreciated when it was acquired in 1710. The leaves of the Gospels and epistles had been deliberately intermixed to disguise the contents of the book, should it have been discovered. In the 19th century the sheets were rearranged in proper sequence and the volume was rebound. The other two copies are held by the British Library and the Württembergische Landesbibliothek in Stuttgart.

## Life and Faith in the Light of Easter

by Julian Sullivan

It is an understatement to say we live in troubled times, where old certainties are swept away, assumptions about the state of the world are turned upside down, and everyone is checking on their balance and centre of gravity. How are we as people of faith, adjusting to significant changes, affecting all ages and walks of life?

These two evenings give an opportunity to listen to one another and share insights from our different perspectives, in conversation with the scriptures. The most important elements of the group are those who participate in it, so we take our cue from the issues raised and consider how they resonate with the scriptures. What might the Bible have to say about our deepest concerns?

Approached in spirit of openness and sensitive listening, these groups have proved extremely helpful in affirming one another and strengthening our faith, as we explore the “changes and chances of this fleeting world.” (BCP) Provisional dates have been set for **Wednesday 29th April, and Wednesday 3rd June**, meeting in the Parish Centre Annexe from **7.30 to 9.00pm**, with refreshments from **7.15pm**.



*Christ at Emmaus: Caravaggio 1601*

Luke's account of the Road to Emmaus might help as we think of a group of disciples walking together, talking about recent events which were difficult to understand. Luke 24:13-35.

Should you wish to participate, please sign up with a contact email for preparatory notes, when a sheet appears at the back of church. If you would like to know more, just ask ...



## **Christian Aid Week 10th – 16th May, 2026**

During Christian Aid Week, we are focussing on the work done in Nairobi and in our appeal we tell the story of Fridah Moraa. Of course, this is only a small part of the work done by Christian Aid throughout the world. But it is significant in how it shows that the aid that is given is not just a sticking plaster in crisis, but develops ways in which those who suffer from poverty and hunger can be resourced to help themselves and others. We hope the story of Fridah will help to inspire you to support the appeal for Christian Aid Week.

Many people are giving of their time and talents to raise funds, by delivering envelopes, by taking part in our Gala Concert and by cooking and running stalls at the Big Breakfast . Please note the dates in your diary and come if you possibly can. We will be delighted to see you!

### **EVENTS IN CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**

**Sunday 10th May 10.30 - Service in Church** with special guest speaker Anne Danks

**Friday 15th May - Our Gala Concert** will be held in the church at 6.30pm. Come to hear our amazing performers as they entertain us with a variety of choral and instrumental music, and amusing anecdotes, with enticing refreshments afterwards! Free admission, but retiring collection for Christian Aid.

**Raffle.** We will be selling raffle tickets throughout the week, and the draw will take place at the Big Breakfast.

**Saturday 16th May - The Big Breakfast** 10am to 12.30pm. On Church Drive (if wet in church). Bacon butties, hot drinks, and stalls (including plants, books, cakes, preserves, and more).

## **Fridah' Story** (courtesy of Christian Aid and its website)

In the informal settlement of Dagoretti in Nairobi, many parents wake each morning knowing they must earn money that day. If they do not, their children may not eat that night. For Fridah Moraa, this pressure is



constant. She is a recently widowed grandmother and the sole provider for her family. Rent, school costs, water and food all depend on what she can earn. *"When I wake up, I have a lot of worries. Sometimes I don't have food. Now I'm responsible for everything".* Fridah lives with her children and grandson in a rented corrugated metal shelter. There is

no running water and space is extremely limited. Many families in Dagoretti manage just two meals a day. Some manage only one. To support her family, Fridah sells vegetables at a market stall. With no refrigeration or storage, she travels long distances to buy produce, six days a week. Some days she earns enough. Some days she does not. *"Sometimes I don't know how I'll buy food. I don't know how I'll feed my family."*

Fridah's situation began to change when she joined Imarisha Kilimo, an urban farming project run by Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope. At first, the idea felt impossible. *'I was wondering, where can someone farm here in Nairobi?'*, she said.

Through training, tools and seeds, Fridah learned how to grow food in small city spaces. She learned how to use cone gardens, make compost and conserve water. *"I discovered I could sow here. Right where I stand. At the end of a narrow alley near her home (see photo opposite) ,* Fridah now tends her own urban farm. She grows kale, tomatoes and indigenous vegetables. Some feed her family. Some she sells. For Fridah, this means more than food. It means stability and choice. *"Now I can plan.*



*I can buy this; I can buy that. I can help my family.” Fridah’s faith sustains her through difficult days. It strengthens her resolve to keep going and to provide for her children. “It’s hard, but in God I trust, for the strength to keep going every day.” Her urban farm is small, but it carries big hopes. Hopes for*

education, independence and a future beyond daily uncertainty.

Please help Christian Aid support more thousands of people in poverty throughout the world by being as generous as you can. Thank you.

***Janet and Malcolm Anker***

## **Parish Registers**

### **Baptisms:**

We thank you for the gift of the lives of William and Alexander Lloyd who were baptised here recently.

### **Please remember those who have died recently:**

Lesley Lomax, Christine Franklin and Jean Alice Evans

*“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted”.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with all the friends and families of those  
names listed.*

# ST JOHN'S CHURCH, RANMOOR

## APRIL CALENDAR



### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

**10-12.30pm** Foodbank Collection from the Church Drive

**11.30am** Holy Communion in the Parish Centre

**12.30pm** Wednesday Lunch Club

**5.30pm** Evening Prayer

### **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

**7.30pm** Maundy Thursday –

Holy Communion with washing of feet

### **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

**12noon** – Three Hour Liturgy

(Choir sings from 1.30pm)

### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

**8.30pm** Easter Vigil

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

#### **Easter Sunday**

**10.30am** Holy Communion with Baptism

*no evening service*

*Matthew to leave Ranmoor on his sponsored walk for Save our Spire*

### **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

No Morning Prayer this week

### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

No Communion or lunch club this week

**5.30pm** Evening Prayer

### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April**

**2pm** Marriage of Isabel Rughani and Jacob Wennerlund

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

**10.30am** Parish Communion

**6.30pm** Said Evensong

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

**9am** Morning Prayer resumes following easter break.  
In Church and on zoom

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

**10-12.30pm** Foodbank Collection from the Church Drive

**11.30am** Holy Communion in the Parish Centre

**12.30pm** Lunch Club

**5.30pm** Evening Prayer

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

**10am** Toddler and Baby Group

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**10.30am** Parish Communion

Welcome back Matthew from the sponsored walk!

**6.30pm** Choral Evensong

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

**7.30pm** PCC meets in the annexe

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

**11.30am** Holy Communion in the Parish Centre

**12.30pm** Lunch Club

**5.30pm** Choral Evensong

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

**10am** Toddler and Baby Group

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

**4pm** Scissors Paper Stone - **Edgar Allen: 'A Man from Sheffield'**

A talk by Sue Roe with refreshments available. Tickets £5\*.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)**

**10.30am** Parish Communion

**Noon** AGM and APCM

**6.30pm** Choral Evensong

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

7.30pm Sanctuary, in the side chapel

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April**

**10-12.30pm** Foodbank Collection from the Church Drive

**11.30am** Holy Communion in the Parish Centre

12.30pm Lunch Club

**5.30pm** Evening Prayer

**Other services during the week:**

**Holy Communion:** Every Wednesday at 11.30am in the Parish Centre

**Choral Evensong:** Evensong Wednesdays at 5.30 pm

(Choral Evensong every other week in term time, see Music List for details)

**Morning Prayer:** Monday to Friday 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk) 0114 230 1199

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

The Parish Office is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays

9.30am-2.30pm

**Dementia Matters:**  
**Dementia Action Week 18th to 24th May, 2026**  
**by Wendy Weeks**



Despite the persistent rain, snow and wind that have made us miserable over the winter months, there is undoubtedly evidence of Spring being among us, manifest as successions of snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils in our gardens.

Among the next crop of flowers to appear is the dainty **forget me not**. Its delicate blooms remind us that this flower is now established as the symbol of the Alzheimer's Society recognising the needs of those in any way affected by dementia. The "forget **me** not" name leads each one of us to look beneath somebody's dementia symptoms. It reminds us that there is a spiritual centre to that (and every) person. That spiritual centre is crying out to us for understanding.

This year, during Dementia Action Week, at St John's we will be having our usual reflection area in the chapel with the addition of some extra prayers, poems and reflections. In 2025 our sister churches (St Mary's, Walkley and St Mark's, Broomhill) joined with St John's by setting up their own dementia displays using the same material as St John's. This year we are inviting other nearby churches and, also, ones in the wider diocese to set up their own reflection displays using the same poems and prayers as St John's.

To further our understanding of dementia particularly in a church or pastoral setting Grace Stead of "Enrichment for the Elderly" will lead a (free) 2-hour introductory session on "Supporting People with Dementia through Pastoral Care" on Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am in

the Ranmoor Parish Centre. As this falls in Dementia Action Week after this session there will be an opportunity for people attending to visit the dementia refectory area in St John's church.

Grace will follow this session with her now famous "Dementia Stars" course for those who wish to understand more about dementia. This 3 session training course will take place at the Ranmoor Parish Centre on Fridays 12, 19 and 26 June at 2pm. Again, this is a free course. The easiest way to book either of the training sessions is to contact Claire Webber, the St John's administrator, who will make the Eventbrite booking for you. She can be contacted by phone 0114 2301199 or [emailadministrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk](mailto:emailadministrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk)

**Please note:** these courses are designed to help with the understanding of dementia for those involved in caring for people with dementia and are not appropriate for those actually on the dementia pathway.

|                                                                                    |                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p>Blog 31:</p> <p><b>Wives, Widows,<br/>Spinsters: Women in<br/>Victorian Ranmoor</b></p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

*This is an edited version of a talk given by local historian Val Hewson for Scissors Paper Stone at St John's Ranmoor on 7th March 2026.*

Victorian Ranmoor was a remarkable place. Until the mid-19th century, it might have been described as the space between Sheffield with its fast-developing industries and the quiet village of Fulwood of medieval origin. Within a few years Ranmoor became a rich suburb, when the innovative Firths, Mappins and other men who made Sheffield famous, chose to

settle there, high above their factories and foundries. When these men were finished with business for the day, they directed their carriages up the hill, to the great homes they had built for themselves.

These homes were the domain of their wives, who sometimes became their widows, and their daughters. The women's lives were largely private, comfortable of course, busy with households, children, social events and good works, often based around St John's. (All this was made possible, of course, through the labour of servants, both female and male, who lived under the eaves of the mansions or in the few terraces squeezed into Ranmoor. But their lives are another story.)



*The Royal party at Oakbrook, Picture Sheffield.*

There was Caroline Firth (1833-94) of Oakbrook, the second wife of Mark Firth, mother to seven and stepmother to two of his children. She had every eye in Sheffield upon her when, in 1875, she opened a ball at the Cutlers' Hall with the Prince of Wales, while her husband escorted the Princess. The Waleses were in town to open Firth Park, and they stayed at Oakbrook. In 1879, the Prince's younger brother, Leopold, came to Oakbrook and attended morning service at the new church of St John. You can imagine the pressure on Caroline, hosting the Royals and escorting them to public ceremonies while the press and townsfolk looked on avidly.



*Sarah Hall, photo credit Peter Flew*

Caroline's stepdaughter, Sarah Firth (1843-1927), was probably among the guests in 1875 but not in 1879, when she would in all likelihood have been in mourning. Her husband, the surgeon Marriott Hall, had been killed in a riding accident near Oakbrook in 1878. Sarah remained a widow for the next 49 years - one of several Ranmoor wives who, like Queen Victoria, lost their husbands at a relatively early age and never re-married. Her obituary noted 'her philanthropic work'.

Not every widow devoted herself to the home or good works. Mrs Ann Hartley (1845-?) of Graham Road described herself in the 1891 census as a woollen merchant. The business was probably Hartley Brothers on Pinstone Street. We don't know if Ann had always played a role in the business or if she got involved out of necessity after the death of her husband William but her position working outside the home was uncommon.

Ranmoor was home to spinsters as well as wives and widows. Foremost among them, perhaps, was Miss Mary Keddie (1844-1930). She was brought up by her aunt and uncle, Mary and Henry Wilkinson of Endcliffe Edge, and inherited their wealth. Mary dedicated herself to charitable works, and her name appears often in the records of St John's. She was the honorary secretary of the Cherrytree Orphanage from the age of 32 until a few months before her death at 86.

There are many more stories to uncover of Victorian Ranmoor's wives, widows and spinsters, mothers and daughters. Unlike their menfolk, the women rarely appeared on the public stage and, without access to family records, it can be difficult to uncover their lives. Official documents, newspapers and the records of St John's, which for many of them seems to have been a valued part of their lives, are usually all we have, but these sources can reveal, as they have here, lives of achievement to be celebrated.

## **Restaurant Review: The Old Eyre Arms, Hassop**



It's a long time since I last visited the Old Eyre Arms. Actually, I don't think I've ever visited the Old Eyre Arms unless it formed part of a Saturday night trip during the 1960s/70s involving the welcoming hostelries of Derbyshire which fortunately were permitted to remain open in direct conflict with the draconian Sheffield licencing laws which decreed all City pubs closed at 10.00pm. Apparently this 10.00pm thing was introduced during the First World War to prevent munitions factory workers from being drunk on duty! Seemingly this non-alcohol imbibing rule also applied to students residing in the City boundaries resulting in the need of a post -10.00pm trip to the welcoming warmth of an unrestricted licence Derbyshire pub to complete a pleasant evening's entertainment. Just check the student bit with the dates mentioned in the beginning of this fairly irrelevant rhetoric in order to clear any possible confusion. If this advice is incomprehensible, don't worry, it may possibly become easier once I actually manage to get the review going.

Back to the present. Spring is (almost) in the air, so a trip with G to the uber-expensive (but pleasant) Chatsworth Garden Centre with plant purchase in mind (possibly!), followed by lunch at the Old Eyre Arms seemed quite a good idea. Some research on line relating to the Eyre Arms suggested a lunch visit could be a reasonable gamble. I know this sounds pretty cautious, but the proof of the pudding etc. hasn't got a lot to do with the glowing reports in "Tripadvisor" or similar - more to do with what is actually on the plate. Plus all the other bits - staff, ambiance, décor or whatever of course! Keep reading - we're getting there!

### **The Meal (part one)**

Apparently, the Old Eyre Arms is part of a developing embryonic restaurant group under the ownership of local entrepreneur Alistair Myres. This modest accumulation of eating emporia also includes the long-standing Rafter's restaurant, which graces Sheffield 10's Hangingwater Road, as well as The Riverside House Hotel which is situated (appropriately) in the picturesque village of Ashford in the Water. A few pretty classy establishments!

The Eyre Arms itself is a very picturesque 17<sup>th</sup> century coaching inn which has managed to maintain its appearance and appeal throughout many, often traumatic, centuries. The original Eyre family (huge coat of arms over the fire place in the lounge area) would probably be impressed how well this old building has been able to maintain its obvious status for so long. Current interior is welcoming. Beyond the imposing front door is a small reception area leading to a choice of turn left to the (drinks only, no food) bar or turn right to the restaurant, where the culinary elements are provided. We were guided into the "turn right" dining room replete with sundry tables and chairs, a small bar providing drinks, a fireplace with fire, and an appropriate oak-beamed ceiling. So far all good.

### **The Meal (part two)**

Quite an eclectic food menu. The "eclectic "menu, plus a glass of dry white wine (unknown origin, but apparently eminently quaffable) - at a

modest £4.80, and a pint of Timothy Taylors (£5.60) ordered as we settled at our reserved table. These were provided by a pleasant, chatty young waitress who also - with some help from a fellow helper and the chef - took our order. Yes! The chef was brought from the food producing area (kitchen!) to explain the culinary peculiarities of my choice of a “main” dish – a beef cheek suet pudding accompanied by chips and a jug of Guinness gravy (£20.50). Anyone who fancied this pretty rare dish had to “endure” a half hour wait. Apparently, this time delay was required as the filling – beef cheek, diced carrots plus sundry herbs (small quantity) is pre-prepared. The suet pastry is then prepared to order, filled with the beef etc., cooked and plated. Impressive! Tasted delicious - well worth the minor wait.

Actually, this potential time delay bit was filled by ordering a starter course of gin cured salmon which came with pickled cucumbers and (genuine!) homemade blinis (£9.00). A brilliant way to spend half an hour before the main event arrived! Just remembered - the beef suet pudding was topped with strips of red cabbage - which really complemented this amazing dish perfectly.

Pudding: not really needed due to volume of the main course but too tempting to eschew, so a modest slice of homemade carrot cake - again genuine, not a “bought in” variety - to share with G proved to be a very tasty accompaniment with an excellent “proper” coffee (£2.50).

## **Verdict**

Having just re-read the above rhetoric, the “verdict” seems pretty obvious. The Old Eyre Arms provides a really high quality meal in a very relaxed environment. Cost reasonable - the final bill was £73.40 for two which included a couple of modest drinks. This is one of the (very) few places I would choose to revisit when the “Would you like to go out for a meal this weekend” phrase enters the sparkling conversation of domestic bliss. Try it - it’s good!

**Roy Stanley**



## Eco Church News

by Cathy Rhodes

Some of you will remember that John Green from our Eco Church group wrote about the Big Plastic Count (BPC). John is bravely sharing his results. In one week, he used 39 bits of plastic, equivalent to 2,028 a year, 87% was from food and drink, which is common. 59% was hard plastic. If every household was the same as John, the UK would use 56,986,800,000 bits of plastic every year!

The BPC team said *'this isn't about feeling guilty about how much plastic packaging you used. Too much plastic is produced by supermarkets and big brands, and we have very little choice about what our food and other essentials come wrapped in.'* Only 18% of plastic waste is recycled in the UK. The UK is one of the top three exporters of plastic waste, sending around 600,000 tonnes abroad each year. 8% is sent to landfill and 57% incinerated, releasing carbon and pollutants in the air, risking health and worsening climate change. The only way to reduce this is to cut plastic production and Action on Plastic are calling on the government to remove plastic packaging from uncut fruit and veg and not send it abroad.

It is also good news that Sheffield City Council announced that from April, residents can continue recycling glass, tins and plastic bottles in their brown bin and will also be able to add plastic pots, tubs, trays, aerosols, foil and cartons. And from 31st March 2027, plastic films will also be added to the list of items that can be recycled. Good news that will be a big help alongside trying to reduce and reuse as well!



## A Rocha UK monthly Eco Tips: April

Celebrate new life this Easter and have a go at growing something! April is the perfect time to try to grow something edible or, if you are a seasoned gardener, to encourage someone else to try. Salad leaves or herbs are a great place to start and will reduce your reliance on those oh-so-convenient supermarket salad bags. For indoor space, try 'micro-greens' (vegetable leaves harvested soon after they open). For greenhouses, try sowing salad leaf seed mixes. For outdoors, beetroot, lettuce, onion and pea plants are frost-resistant so can all be planted outside in April. As you sow, thank God for the opportunity to grow food, and pray for those communities that are facing food shortages and famine.

## Save Our Spire

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or use the QR code



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## Quiz: Football Clubs

compiled by Philip Walshaw



The answers to the clues below are either Premiership, Championship or English Football League Clubs.

Send your entry by email to [jpwalshaw@gmail.com](mailto:jpwalshaw@gmail.com) or by post to 19 Cairns Road, S10 5NA to reach me by Monday, 20th April, 2026.

1. Top of the goal posts with onion bag (6)
2. Always not returning (7)
3. Nears around Los Angeles initially (8)
4. Leaches all over the place (7)
5. Ronnie is transformed in Totley (6,6)
6. Changed ages after wrong event (9)
7. Organ loop reversed (9)
8. City choir relocated in North West (7)
9. Factory barrier (8)
10. Rub one around before opening (11)
11. Murky water (9)
12. A carpet Sally changed with Cathy first (7,6)
13. Found in the bar, rowing (6)
14. Hundred camels scrambled in front of meadow (12)
15. Shotputter transformed within a month (9,7)

**Answers to last month's quiz:** 1. Stonehaven 2. Coldstream 3. Prestonpans 4. Motherwell 5. Edinburgh 6. Rothesay 7. Oban 8. Larkhall 9. Montrose 10. Fort Augustus 11. Elgin 12. Stenhousemuir 13. Peterhead (featured) 14. Peebles 15. Aberdeen

**Entries were received from:** Janet and Malcolm Anker, Helen Baxter, Ruth Cheshire, Pam and Ian Dall, Michael and Rosemary Hannon, Pauline Heath, Alex Heaton, Lynn and Steve Lawless, John and Brenda Staniforth, Paul Walshaw, Barbara and Peter Wozencroft.

**The winner was:** Pauline Heath, who receives a Terry's Chocolate Orange Easter Egg.



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## **Contacts at St John the Evangelist, Ranmoor**

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matthew.rhodes@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

**Associate Priest:** Revd Alison Wragg (0114 2301199)  
alison.wragg@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

**Lay minister:** Janet Noble (Children's Minister)  
0114 2301199 (Church Office)  
footsteps@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

**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](mailto:footsteps@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk)

Revd Canon Dr Matthew Rhodes

07754 068391

[matthew.rhodes@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk](mailto:matthew.rhodes@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk)

## **Study Group:**

Sandra Green

0114 2309180

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

## **Flower arranging:**

Sandra Green and Ruth Whaites

0114 2309180

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

## **Music:**

Philip Collin, Director of Music

[philip.collin@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk](mailto:philip.collin@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk)

or [music@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk](mailto:music@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk)

## **Bellringers:**

*Tower Captain*

Richard Noble 07834 154637

[towercaptain@ranmoorringers.org.uk](mailto:towercaptain@ranmoorringers.org.uk)

*Secretary*

Gill Platt Hopkin

[secretary@ranmoorringers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ranmoorringers.org.uk)

## **Wednesday Lunch Club**

contact Claire Webber - Parish

Administrator

## **Uniformed organisations**

Ranmoor Guides:

[ranmoorguides@gmail.com](mailto:ranmoorguides@gmail.com)

Ranmoor Brownies:

Jenny Woodhouse -

[ranmoorbrownies@gmail.com](mailto:ranmoorbrownies@gmail.com)

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

Michael Holmes 07802 860556

[Michaelholmes1@gmail.com](mailto:Michaelholmes1@gmail.com)

Beavers (6 to 8 yrs) meet Mon night:

Heidi Adcock [heidi.adcock@me.com](mailto:heidi.adcock@me.com)

Cubs (8 to 10.5 yrs) meet Wed night:

Nea Maycock [nea@ranmoorscouts.com](mailto:nea@ranmoorscouts.com)

Scouts (10.5 to 14 yrs) meet Tues night:

Simon Maltby

[simon@ranmoor-scouts.com](mailto:simon@ranmoor-scouts.com)

District Explorers (14 to 18 yrs)

meet Friday night:

Liam Foster

[liam.foster@cheshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:liam.foster@cheshirescouts.org.uk)

# 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. We cannot guarantee that everything we receive will be published.

**The deadline for contributions to the March edition is Monday, 20th April, 2026.**

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