



The Beacon

Newsletter of St John's Church, Worksop

September 2025

Our church members and regular readers will know that St John's has been vicarless for over 2 years. The process to find a new leader (interregnum) is lengthy as our Churchwarden, Phill Kicks summarises below....

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The Process for a New Vicar

I was trying to think on how to present the interregnum and it not be boring,

So I am taking you into Claycross tunnel, a place I have spent many hours working in. It is 1631m long, very wet and has an uphill gradient.

As we started to write the *Parish Profile* (i.e. a very full description of our church and the parish) we entered the tunnel with the light at the far end just a small dot. Moving forward slowly and carefully we completed version 1 and found a place of safety from the Diocese. An express train coming through scrapped that version. We moved on to complete versions 2, 3, and 4, before final approval. The light at the end of the tunnel was getting bigger.

We carried on deeper into the tunnel and started advertising: first time no replies, second time – yes we had an applicant and moved forward.

The light was getting bigger, then we realised it's not the end of the tunnel but an express train pulling towards us. We take refuge again and find out the applicant has gone by on the train and left! Finally another advert. We proceed through the tunnel and the light gets bigger and bigger. We reach the end of the tunnel and move to safety in the light.

The interregnum is like the tunnel, very dark, and several times we needed refuge. But we kept going towards the light and the true Light of the World has rewarded our faith.



We have a new vicar!

Phill Kicks

See 2 for more details



FOCUS

on our
Missionary
Link



"Go throughout
the whole world
and preach the gospel
to all mankind."
Mark 16:15

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Sandra In Uganda.....

Sandra Merriman arrived at St John's over 30 years ago. At that time she was working as a pharmacist at BDGH and she was involved in the work among young people as a Sunday School teacher as well as a Youth Leader.

Sandra felt called to working abroad with a mission and during the later years of her time here she started seeking the Lord's will for her and finally found that Youth With A Mission (YWAM) was the right organisation and Uganda was the right place to go.

She went out to a place near Jinja and was involved with the medical mission to AIDS victims.

We receive regular emails from Sandra updating us with her latest news and things we can support her with in our prayers. If you would like to receive it direct to your inbox please let Rosemary Arnott have your address. If you wish to donate towards YWAM Uganda see Phil Rutherford, Church Treasurer.



Over the years the work expanded and her role in 'YWAM Uganda' grew from that as a field worker to a manager. She moved from the village and Hope House to a base in Jinja itself, where she is now a Director and responsible for the management of 'YWAM Uganda'. She also has responsibility for working with other bases throughout the country.

It has been a long road from St John's many years ago to where Sandra is now. She certainly deserves our prayers and material support.

Alan Hardstaff

APPOINTMENT OF OUR NEW VICAR

As a church we are so pleased to learn that our next Vicar will be Revd. Gareth Banton who will join us with his wife, April and sons Samuel and Jonathan.

He will be licensed at St John's Church on Monday 1st December.



Sunset over St John's



Thanks to Steve and Jeanette for this amazing photo.
Looks like it's time to **GO!**



Up! Up! And Away!

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What a week we have had as Howard and Mairwen completed their Tandem skydives at Langar Skydive Centre. Perfect weather, excitement building as they met their instructors. Then they were off, up, up, up 14,000 feet beyond our visibility until a group of single parachutes launched. Shortly after, two specks appeared freefalling 8,000 feet at 150 miles per hour until, with a squeak of relief from me, the main chutes opened – cruising to earth and landing with their instructor beneath them.

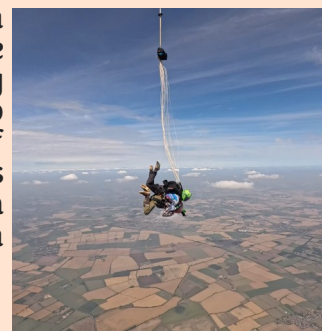
Howard said

"It was amazing, I would love to do it again."

My lovely daughter's words on landing

"That was brilliant but I never want to do it again."

With your help she raised over £1,300 for Parkinson's UK so thank you everyone who sponsored and encouraged her.



Brass Band Concert

with a "Last Night of the Proms" Flavour

Saturday September 27th, 6.00p.m. in church

**with Thurcroft Brass Band
and Redlands School Choirs**

Tickets £5 available
from Jess Rudman or
pay on the door



TUESDAYS @ 10

We look forward to our hearing our
speaker on September 30th.

Dene Wood, Head Gardener at
Clumber, will talk on
'Clumber Greenhouses and Kitchen
Garden'





Apart from being involved at the beginning of science, systems of government, philosophy, art, schools, hospitals, the emancipation of women, the abolition of slavery, social welfare, helping form the basis of the moral code most people live by and introducing popular notions of justice, mercy, peace, decency and compassion.....

What has Christianity ever done for the world?

WHAT'S CHRISTIANITY ALL ABOUT?

Are you interested in learning more about the Christian faith, or thinking about being Confirmed?

If so, you will be very welcome to join with others at 10.30am in the Church Lounge on Saturday mornings from September 27th. Talk to our Churchwarden, Phill Kicks, or contact the office for more information.

Regular Weekly Diary

Tuesday 10.00—12 noon
Coffee Morning

Wednesday 1.00 pm Mothers' Union
(1st Wed'day of the month)
7.00 pm
Lifeline Praise and Prayer

OR Life/Home Groups

Friday 7.00—8.30 (alternate weeks)
Games Night for all ages

Saturday 10.00—12 noon
Church open to all

For more details of the above ask one of our leaders

Contact Point

Church Office:

Overend Road, Worksop S81 1QG

[usually open Friday a.m. from 9.30—12 noon]

Tel: 01909 472595

Email: office.worksopstjohn@gmail.com

Church Website:

www.stjohnschurchworksop.co.uk

Heritage Website: <https://worksopspire.org>

SUNDAY SERVICES

10.30 am Morning Worship
+ Kids, Church

6.00 pm Sunday @ 6.00
Informal service in the
Church Hall Lounge



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