

# St John the Evangelist

## Manthorpe



### Jottings – May 2026

News and views from church, village and estate

#### Minister's Letter

##### From Galilee to Manthorpe

We might think of the story of the life of Jesus as ending at Easter, but the festivals we celebrate this month show us God moving from **being among us** in the dusty streets of Galilee, to **being for us** at the right hand of the Father, to **being in us** through the Holy Spirit.

Prior to Good Friday, the presence of God was localised. To hear the Word, one had to stand on a specific hillside in Galilee; to feel the healing touch, one had to be in the same room as Jesus. It was an intimate, physical presence bounded by the constraints of geography and time.

The Ascension changes the nature of that presence. While it may appear to be a departure, it is better thought of as a handover from the local to the universal. By withdrawing his risen presence from a single location, Christ is no longer restricted to a single place; he is now as present to us in Manthorpe as he was to the disciples in Jerusalem. He sits at the right hand of the Father, acting as our advocate—the one who is eternally for us.

But the handover does not stop there. At Pentecost, the movement completes its journey from the external to the internal. The Holy Spirit takes the personality of Jesus and makes it available to every believer. The mission is no longer carried out by one man, but by the whole Church. This is the power we receive for the work of God's kingdom; we are given the very breath of God to act in his name.

Finally, Trinity Sunday allows us to step back and view the whole grand picture. We can see this progression as the unfolding of

God's own identity. We worship a God who is a community of love—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are not mere spectators of this divine drama, but participants invited into the very life of the Trinity.

So let us this coming month at Ascension, at Pentecost, on Trinity Sunday celebrate the God who moves ever closer to us.

Steve Potts (with research by Gemini)

### Services in May

Sunday 3rd	Easter 5 Morning Prayer	10.00am
Wednesday 6th	BCP Eucharist	10.00am
Sunday 10th	Easter 6 Eucharist	10.00am
	Baptism Noah Laufer	11.30am
Wednesday 13th	BCP Eucharist	10.00am
Sunday 17th	Easter 7 Morning Prayer	10.00am
Wednesday 20th	BCP Eucharist	10.00am
Sunday 24th	Pentecost Eucharist	10.00am
Wednesday 27th	BCP Eucharist	10.00am
Sunday 31st	Trinity Sunday Worship for All	10.00am

### 14<sup>th</sup> May is Ascension Day

We worship at the Church of the Ascension,  
Edinburgh Road at 6:30pm



### Dates for your Diary

Friday 1st	Church Whist Drive	2.00pm
Sunday 3rd	PCC Finance	11.00am
Wednesday 6th	Ministers' meeting	11.00am
Friday 15th	Fish and chip quiz	5.30pm
Sunday 24th	APCM	11.30am

Please note:-office closed for annual leave 20<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May.

## Acrostic for Pentecost

*Alan Elkins*

**C**reator God, all gracious Lord,  
**O**pen our hearts anew.  
**M**elt and mould us with the  
**E**ternal fire of your own Spirit.  
**H**eal us and renew us,  
**O**h Jesus, son of God.  
**L**ord, send upon the church  
**Y**our promised comforter.  
**S**trengthen and seal us  
**P**ower and Spirit of God  
**I**nflame us with that  
**R**adiant fire that  
**I**llumined and warmed the earth at  
**T**he dawn of creation.

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### Love

“Love one another as I have loved you” that is what the Lord exhorted us to do. When we are very young we take the love our parents and relations offer us for granted and when we become teenagers a passionate love is all that interests. If you are lucky you find this but after a few years it changes into a romantic quiet love and then a dependent love.

What we don't think about much is the LOVE we are surrounded by from our friends and neighbours. It does not manifest itself with hugs and kisses: it is a supporting quiet love expressed in comforting words, an unexpected smile and the knowledge that they are always there for you. My family, Thomas in Leeds and Rachel in Hastings, and myself have been overwhelmed by the supporting love and the sharing in our grief which we have received since Derek passed away. It has held us together. Thank you.

Margaret Booles

## **Lent and Easter 2026**

Hardly had we recovered from the excesses and enjoyment of Christmas and the New Year when on the 17th February - Shrove Tuesday, we enjoyed our Pancakes and moved into the Lent season with Fr. Stuart leading us on Ash Wednesday – Easter was early this year!

At various venues in our grouping, Lent study courses were run by Rev. Francis Mason and Fr. Stuart.

Holy week services at Manthorpe were well attended although overshadowed by the sad news of the passing of our much loved friend Derek Booles.

On Monday the 1662 Service of Compline was celebrated with Rev. Francis who encouraged us to hold a stone and let it carry all our cares and woes away as we placed it on the tiny Altar. On Wednesday evening Rev Jill lead Compline from Common Worship.

On Tuesday with Fr. Stuart leading, we prayed for the healing of the world and our own personal family and friends – a very moving Service.

The Wednesday morning BCP Communion Service was replaced with Derek's funeral with the Rev. Jill and Fr. Stuart leading the tributes and prayers. To a Church and Hall overflowing with family, friends and colleagues, Derek's choices of music and hymns were much enjoyed. Kate and Linda read passages from the Bible and Joan read the moving poem – Footprints in the Sand. At the end of the Service Fr. Stuart's beautiful voice filled the Church with the Song of Farewell and brought a tear to our eyes as we said our own personal goodbyes to Derek.

The Maundy Thursday Eucharist Service, led by Fr. Stuart, was held at 10.00 o'clock in the morning and after celebrating the Eucharist the Altar was stripped. As we turned our thoughts to the events of Good Friday the Reverends Francis and Jill read moving passages from the Bible and a variety of authors reminding us of Pilate's final decision that Jesus would be crucified and Peter's denial of ever knowing him - then the cock crowed! It's a question I often ask myself – would our faith hold steady if we had to face the risk of death by admitting we were Christians? Let us remember in

our prayers the many Christians around the world who face this on a daily basis.

On Easter Saturday, the talented ladies of the Church Flower Group, led by Karen, prepared their beautiful displays of flowers in readiness for Easter Day, and the Pascal candle and stand were moved to St. Wulfram's in readiness for the Service of New Light.

At 6pm, tasty meals, puddings and drinks were offered by the ladies of St. Wulfram's and very much enjoyed by the large number of friends from St. Wulfram's, St. John's Manthorpe and St. John's Spitalgate. Thank you Ladies.

Steve Potts and Michael Lincoln – the annual pyromaniacs! – despite the swirling wind, lit the fire at the West end door and Pascal candles from St. Wulfram's, St John's Manthorpe and St. John's Spitalgate were lit from the fire by the Priests as the congregation processed into the dark Church with their small candles lit from the Pascal candles. We sang joyful hymns, renewed our Baptism vows, made loud noises with our drums, bells and horns and let off our poppers into the air. As the Service drew to a close we all gathered at the high Altar singing and sharing The Peace as we once again made loud joyful noises with our instruments – thanks Nick Kerry for blowing your ear splitting horn!! Huge balloons were kept airborne as they bounced around the gathered singers - thanks Fr. Stuart for punching the balloons into our faces! It was a very happy crowd of worshippers that left the Church that night well prepared for Easter Day. Many thanks to the St. Wulfram's staff for cleaning up the considerable mess afterwards!

Easter day, windy and threatening rain, began at the gate with Rev. Francis dressing the large wooden cross with daffodils and Easter lilies and then singing and processing back into the Church for the Service. We renewed our Baptism vows and Rev. Francis took great delight in spraying us with the holy water from the Font. Joyful songs were sung as the gathered congregation listened to readings and prayers before celebrating the Eucharist and collecting their Easter Eggs on leaving the Church.

May the joy of Easter remain with us all throughout the coming year.

Joan Lincoln

## Easter Monday Egg and Spoon Races

The Easter winds that had blown so strongly over the weekend were slowly abating and it wasn't raining – hurray!! A perfect day for the races in the Church grounds.

Names were booked in as the children and parents arrived and teas and coffees were being served in the Hall. But soon the bell rang and it was time for the off!

Although there were not enough children to race in all the age groups – everyone who participated was given a small Easter egg – parents too!

The Easter Bonnet competitions were won by Merna (adult) and Teddy (child)

The winners of the Races were all given a large Easter Egg and later we drew the Raffle.



As attendance at this event had been declining over the years – it was agreed by the Social Group that we would not hold it next year.

Joan Lincoln

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## Snippets of History from Ann Bramley

### The Book of Fees (with kind permission of Lincoln Public library)

The Book of Fees is the first record of **Manthorpe** in print and shows that even in 1198 the village was inextricably connected with Belton, Londonthorpe, Towthorpe and Gonerby. It also appears that Richard the Lionheart was just as busy as Prince John using knights and sheriffs to collect yet more taxes.

## **Lent Appeal**

for the Beehive Dementia Cafe in Finkin Street raised ££575 00

Each year the Mission and Social Responsibility Group ( MSRGR ) discuss the merits and needs of our local community.

The "Dementia cafe " answers the needs of many people. Here, on a Tuesday and a Wednesday at the Bhive, is an opportunity for the clients and their carers to make friends. The carers are offered practical support in their demanding roles too, with information given about services available to them and those they support.

The leading voluntary fundraiser of Bhive, Mr Rob Dixon, gave a talk following our Wednesday service. Light refreshments were provided by the MSRGR and everyone was absorbed learning about the amazing work that happens at the Bhive.

Donations to this charity were on-going throughout Lent. The Social Committee had planned a soup and roll lunch. and the members of both groups provided a delicious meal including tempting desserts. During this occasion Margaret had provided marmalades for sale and Cynthia her beautiful selection of cards. All monies at that event (£303-50) were donated to the Lent Appeal.

Thanks to all who contributed in any way

Christina Banks

o-o

## **Christian Aid Week**



The week of May 10th -16th is a time to join with other communities and homes to support those in other countries who are stricken by poverty. This is your chance to give towards the work of Christian Aid in the many places where they develop projects, provide facilities for the people to become self-sufficient and work with the locals to improve their lives.

Christina Banks (Christian Aid rep)



Escalators would become a relief and a joy on this unexpected holiday because to reach Alexandria and Oliver's apartment we had to rise up by 18 — yes EIGHTEEN — escalators and 18 short zebra crossings before a walk up a flight of stone steps and a lift up to the 9th floor before relaxing and taking in their astonishing view.

It was Chinese New Year of the Horse so from the terrace on the 27th floor (out of 38) we watched a true Chinese fireworks display.



A boat trip to Macau and the Old Town; almost a replica of Lisbon (I know because I have been to Portugal). Up a very steep hill to the facade of Saint Paul then carefully back down the mosaic cobbled street through the open fronted shops. My vegetarian daughter was shocked to see blocks of sliced raw mince displayed in the hot sun.

In an open top bus we drove through New Town Macau. A spectacular working replica of the Strip in Las Vegas (I know because I have been there too!). You can shop at Dior, Prada, Versace, Tiffany in an almost full size St. Pancras station. In the 'London' shop were gifts such as found in London with real gold and real diamonds. I wished later that I had turned them over to see if they were stamped 'MADE IN CHINA'!?

A delightful experience was a matinee in a very modern theatre to see a very ancient performance with traditional instruments, poems and excerpts from two Chinese operas. Our balcony seats welcomed us with ceramic dishes and tiny, tasty bites and a very large glass cup of tea.

We watched the sun go down on the ocean on Lamma island. In stark contrast to the ranks of hi-rise buildings, the harbour resembled a hippy location of the 1960s.

Ann Bramley

## St John's Community Hall

### To book the hall please contact

Joan, Administrator 07434 516116

### Regular bookings

2nd Mon. am New Layers of Stitch, Mary Bomphrey 07715 171808

3rd Mon. am U3A STEM, John Down 01746 576204

4th Mon. am Bobbin Lace Group, Jean Breckenridge 07929 990708

Mon pm weekly Daisy Chain Yoga, Rachel Metcalfe 07920 096439

Mon eve weekly Pilates, Kristina Hammond 01476 577796

Tues am weekly Exhale, Jette Rasmussen 07901 555499

Tues pm term time First Class Learning Steven Newman 07990 500111

2nd Tues eve Manthorpe W.I., Judy Payne 07913 536 698

Last Tues eve Grantham Sunflower W.I., Janis E-Dowling 07890 618640

1<sup>st</sup> Wed. pm National Trust, Paul Skelton 07818 435 808

Wed. pm weekly (except 1<sup>st</sup>) Parkinsons UK, Ian Askew 01400 282712

Wed eve weekly Exhale Therapy Jette Rasmussen 07901 555499

3rd Thurs pm National Trust, Paul Skelton 07818 435 808

Thurs pm School Tuition, Karen Shaw 07701 096842

Thurs. eve weekly Bridge Club, Peter Simpson 01949 842481

Friday am weekly Daisy Chain Yoga, Rachel Metcalfe 079200 96439

1st Fri pm Church Whist Drive, Joan Lincoln 07434 516116

4th Fri pm (Sept - Apr)U3A Gardening, Caroline Bowman 01476 566411

2nd Fri eve (Oct -Apr) Lincs Wildlife, John Chadwick 01476 561413

4th Fri eve Soundbath, Liz Langford 07971 400769

Sat am term time First Class Learning, Steven Newman 07990 500111

### One-off hall bookings for May

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> 11.00am-4.00pm Village party

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> 1.30pM Wake in hall

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> 2.00-4.00pm Private party

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 7.00-8.30pm Private booking

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> 6.00-9.00pm Private party

## Parish Matters

**Vicar:** Father Stuart W. Craddock 01202569582

Church warden: Linda Vincent

PCC secretary: Rob Vincent

Safeguarding officer:

Parish Administrator: Joan Lincoln 07434516116

www.stjohnmanthorpe.org.uk Email: stjohnmanthorpe@gmail.com

### Registers for April

Baptisms	None
Weddings	None
Funerals	1 <sup>st</sup> Derek Booles
Burial of ashes	None

### Cleaning rotas for May

Church	
11th	Rev & Mr Potts
25th	Mr & Mrs Hamley
Brasses	Judy Paine



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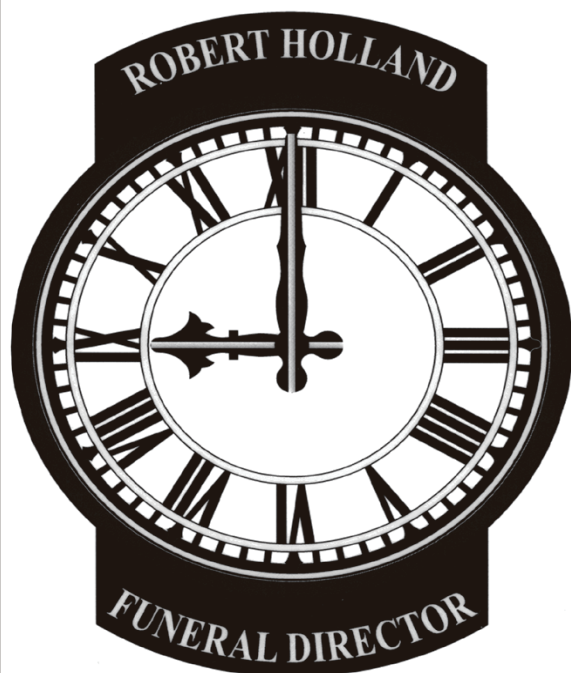
## Articles for Jottings

To ensure entry to the following  
month's Jottings, please send  
reports, social events, news  
and information to Jill Potts  
[jilldallygate@gmail.com](mailto:jilldallygate@gmail.com)  
by the 18<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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## Don't forget!

If you wish to mark and special  
anniversary, birthday or  
remember a loved one, you are  
welcome to put flowers in our  
memorial window.



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