

St John the Evangelist

Manthorpe



Jottings – June 2026

News and views from church, village and estate

Minister's Letter

We are living today in turbulent times. Like many of you, I am sure, I hardly dare turn the news on in the evening for fear of what new horrors may appear on my TV screen. There are so many conflicts and wars in our world, that in our prayers, we are constantly asking that there may yet be peaceful outcomes. Of course throughout history, the world has always had its troubles and conflicts. Our parents and grandparents fought in two terrible world wars and still we cry out for peace.

It is our Christian faith that sustains and helps us through troubled times, but what of the many who don't know or understand the Christian Faith? I became a Christian later on in my life, and I vividly recall my teenage years, with all the moods and stresses that go hand in hand with growing up. We were all very aware during that time of the tensions between America and Russia and the growing threat of nuclear war. This used to play heavily on my teenage mind, and caused sleepless nights, when I would lay awake scared. I didn't know where to turn for help.

I didn't know God, I didn't know how to pray, but thankfully he knew me, and saw my despair. Because the words of a hymn that we used to sing in school morning assembly came to me during those dark times, I repeated them over and over again, and can honestly say that they gave me comfort and hope. This started my journey to Christian faith.

We as Christians put our trust in Jesus. We are taught that He is the Light of the World, and as His people we can be Peacemakers and reflect His light into dark places. And so, today, when we lift the troubles of the world to Him in prayer, let us not forget those who do

A 90th YEAR CELEBRATION

On a cloudy overcast morning at the 2026 May Day bank holiday, the Community Hall was alive and buzzing with people from Manthorpe Village setting out tables and bringing in plate after plate of food. This was the day to celebrate Ann Bramley's 90th year and as usual, Ann was in the thick of it and enjoying every minute!

Old and new residents of Manthorpe village had all been invited and the small committee were soon busy, as they all knew exactly what they had to provide along with a list of jobs to be done.

As the pretty cloths covered the tables, small vases of flowers were created by Linda and Steph. and Phoebe busied herself with the crackers and cutlery etc. Ladies in the kitchen were plating food and the warm smell of savouries being cooked in the ovens by Diana and Martinio filled the air. Photographs of Ann throughout her long life were arranged on a table and music played in the background as the Hall filled with the sound of much chatter and laughter.

At 12.30 the guests, carrying many cakes, began arriving and were each given a glass of champagne or a soft drink. Introductions of recent Manthorpe families to the longer term residents were made and soon the volume of voices rose until a bell, kindly donated to the Church by Christine Gibson, rang out and guests were invited to take their seats.

Everyone was warmly welcomed and a short prayer said before people were invited to help themselves to the now bulging tables of mouth watering food. Martinio continued topping up their glasses.

On Ann's behalf, may I thank the team of ladies and gentlemen (sorry I can't remember all your names) for a very well planned and organised gathering. It was so successful, I hope you will all get together again to arrange future events. Well done everyone!

Ann – thank you for your inspired idea to celebrate your birthday year, your generosity and for the meticulous attention to detail in your planning. You put together a wonderfully well organised team and we hope you enjoyed it all.

HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY YEAR
from all the Residents of the Village
and the congregation of Manthorpe Church

Joan Lincoln

Kindness

The Booles and Rich families want to say a huge thank you for the generous donation they were able to make to The Sick Children's Charity. Robert Holland has sent off a cheque for £680. This charity provides FREE accommodation to parents of children who are in Intensive Care at Great Ormond Street Hospital (and I believe at other centres of excellence). This provides a retreat for parents and comes with breakfast items, fresh linen, washing machine etc and everything a family might need in an emergency.

Rachel and Hollie stayed in one of their flats close by the hospital when Tommie was in Intensive Care for two weeks. Saving them a lot of money, close at hand and a welcome bolt hole for one of them while the other stayed at his bedside.

Thank you. Margaret Booles

X-X

The play group enjoyed a walk in the village



Part 2 of Ann Bramley's visit to Hong Kong and China

New Year's day was a National holiday in Hong Kong in which the whole population hit the streets, mostly wearing traditional (if everyday) red clothes. I had bought a scarlet fascinator to wear on my jacket. To reach the streets below we daily took a taxi and hurtled down the winding road, every driver must have seen Steve McQueen in BULLIT!!

On Lantau island, on top of the mountain stands a giant Buddha. Here a thin and crumpled Buddhist monk pass by. He prostrated and prayed, moved his very new shiny case on wheels, prostrated and prayed. Each time, drawing close his 'trolley', he continued his devotions towards the incense burners and temple. We experienced emotion and respect as he passed by, knowing how he must have made his journey up the 5 mile stone pathway up the mountain we had just ascended by a gondola with a glass floor.

Yes, we DID go to China. By good fortune visas had been cancelled by both governments that very day. We caught a sleek train at Kowloon underground station and at 194 km. per hr. and in 15 minutes we were in Shen [Shenzhen] and facing the customs barriers. ALL 5 of them! Passports scrutinised, eyes identified, also fingerprints, bags and coats on rollers and archway for human x-rays, metal detectors. We were even frisked (by women of course — and the inevitable question 'How old are you?' Having demanded my age she was satisfied it was the same as her own mother — although quick and nimble, she herself looked much the same! I got used to being asked. It took a lot longer to get through customs than it took to get there!

Determined we should enjoy the full Chinese Experience, individual teas were chosen which came on wooden boxes laden with a full tea set. Our table was then bombarded with delicious mouthfuls but don't ask me what. (I am quite accomplished with chopsticks.)

A taxi then bus took us round Shen. My daughter had been here 10 years previously and her photo showed a vast swamp. Today it has carefully planned districts of Banks, Institutions, IT, 'Silicon Valley'.

On our last day in Hong Kong, we paid homage to the days of our old Empire. The British barracks and cells are now a charming meeting place with elegant dining areas. **Ann Bramley**

Trip to Jerusalem

Letter from abroad dated 11th September 1966, when East Jerusalem was still part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

“The American Colony Hotel” Jerusalem. stayed in by Churchill, Fleming, Le Carre and many others.

Dear Mum and Dad,

As you can see I have at last arrived in Jordan. We left Beirut at 8.30 this morning and arrived here at 8 tonight. I must admit to being very tired and I think, judging by the amount of sand round the bath, that I brought most of the Jordan desert with me. The journey took so long because of the time wasted at frontiers - three hours in all. We left the Lebanese border having been through all the formalities, crossed the “no-man’s land” to the Syrian border. Here as you can imagine, things were pretty slow. We drove through Syria to Damascus where everything was very quiet. There is some sort of festival going on. We visited the Street called Straight with its corrugated iron ceiling! most disappointing and not at all biblical. We bumped into a rather gorgeous chap who turned out to be a journalist for the British Geographic Magazine and who knew Waff. We had a coffee and drove on to exit Syria.

The customs men were having a field day and almost took the car to pieces. Seeing real life weapons strapped to these chaps was a real eye opener for me. We travelled across another no-man’s land into Jordan which took another hour. We got through and ate our picnic lunch. It is so beautiful, I cannot explain how I feel but it’s as though each bend in the road discloses more vastness makes my mind so full that I cannot take it all in. One side of a mountain is completely barren and round the corner there is a beautiful fertile valley. We got to Jarash, a Roman town in ruins. To me, it was much more interesting than Baalbek. Baalbek is breathtaking in its enormity but at Jarash they have uncovered a town with roads and villas and you can imagine how the Romans lived.

Fhadal was not sure of the way but assured us we would be in Jerusalem by 6 o’clock. Well, we took this road which was fantastic, good surface and terrific hair pin bends up and down the mountains. There were hardly any other cars about and as we went further down it got hotter and hotter until even the air coming through the

windows was like a hot air blower. When we got onto the flat land the road STOPPED and there was just sand. By this time it was getting dark and I was really rather scared. We went for about a couple of miles on this sand and people on donkeys assured us we were on the right road, when suddenly the tarmac started again, very bumpy with great big holes and only wide enough for one car. To make matters worse we met a huge Army convoy.

As you can see from the letter heading, I'm staying at the American Colony Hotel. Dear Mum, if only you were here to enjoy it with me - its fabulous. A very old style large house with balconies and archways. Lovely furniture and table lamps. The courtyard is a mass of bougainvillea, sweet smelling jasmine and other exotic plants with lemon trees and palms in the centre. My room which is on a different floor to Waff has a church-like ceiling, you know, painted mouldings. The twin beds are covered in dark blue, the easy chair is pale blue, the curtains gold and white and the two table lamps are a mixture of all the colours which are a perfect match with the ceiling, I am writing this at the little writing table, behind me is the dressing table and built in wardrobe and on the floor are Persian rugs - how about that? My bathroom leads off this with lovely thick white towels. Waff's room is even more beautiful, much bigger with a dressing room as well as bathroom. I was supposed to have it but she is not supposed to go up too many stairs so I have the highest room. We've had dinner, absolutely delicious and walked around the area. Tomorrow it's an early start through the gate in the walled city to see the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. All so exciting. Goodnight and God bless".

Written when I was 22

Anon





MANTHORPE

PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

MAY HALF TERM ACTIVITIES 2026

Fun-filled week for children!



BANK HOLIDAY - CLOSED



PARK TRIP & SCAVENGER HUNT

Adventure time! Explore the park and complete a fun scavenger hunt



FOREST SCHOOL CRAFTS IN NATURE

Explore the outdoors and create nature-inspired crafts



FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS & DREAM CATCHERS

Design and make your own beautiful keepsakes



CELEBRATING NATIONAL SANDWICH WEEK

Get creative and make your own delicious sandwiches!



LEARN, PLAY, EXPLORE & HAVE FUN TOGETHER!



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
1st Wed. pm National Trust, Paul Skelton 07818 435 808
Wed. pm weekly (except 1st) 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 June

Saturday 6th First Class Learning – Office 11 -13.00hrs

Saturday 27th Private Party – Parker 13.30 – 16.30

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 May

Baptisms	Noah Laufer
Weddings	None
Funerals	Darren Freestone
Ashes Burial	Oskar Doughty

Cleaning rotas for June

Church	
8th	Mr & Mrs Storey
22th	Margaret & Cynthia
Brasses	Pat Temple-Fielder



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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
by the 18th 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.



RH

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