

STANNINGTON



Spring 2026 Issue thirty eight

EASTER AT CHRIST CHURCH

LOOK AT THE BIRDS

ABSEILING FOR THE SNOWDROP PROJECT

STANNINGTON'S PARKRUN



FREE
Please take one

A magazine for everyone in Stannington



What's on at Christ Church
Church Street, Stannington
A church with Silver Award Eco status.
The church building is wheelchair accessible.



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday	09.00	Holy Communion (quiet service).
1st & 3rd Sunday		Common Worship: contemporary language
2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday		Common Worship: traditional language
	10.00	Refreshments: every Sunday
Sunday	10.30	
1st and 3rd Sunday		Morning Service
2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday		Morning Service with Communion
1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sunday		Kids Groups meet
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday		Youth group meets

Recordings of some of these services are available through our website
www.christchurchstannington.org

Other Regular Events

Monday 12.00-13.00	Food Bank , at Stanwood Methodist Church
Tuesday 09.30-11.00	Baby Time , in church, during term time
Tuesday 10.30-11.30	Natter , at Hall Park Community Centre
2nd & 4th Tues 14.00-16.00	Craft and Conversation , in church.
Various days and times	Small groups , email beth.burras@gmail.com for details
1st Saturday 09.00-10.15	Breakfast with Talk organised by the men of Christ Church, in the church hall. Booking essential, via church email address please.

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 E-mail: nick@christchurchstannington.co.uk

Associate Priest: **Revd. Alison Cook** Tel: 0114 234 3463
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Operations Coordinator: **Kate Mugridge:**
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 E-mail: kate@christchurchstannington.co.uk
 Working from home 9.00 to 11.00 Friday 07597 684 640

For more information: www.facebook.com/ChristChurchStannington

Christ Church Stannington

A Light on the Hill.

We want to see lives and communities shining with Jesus' love.

Jonathan Foster writes

Late one night I was walking home down a dimly lit jennel. I got halfway along when a dog sized creature turned into the jennel and headed straight towards me, apparently oblivious of my presence. The tall fences either side left no other option but for us to cross paths, and feeling curious as to what the creature was I decided to continue on. It gave no sign it was aware of me until I was just 10 feet from what turned out to be a pretty large badger. It stopped, put its head up and looked directly at me. Suddenly aware of my presence, the badger quickly turned round and disappeared back the way it had come.



I was able to get so close because badgers have relatively poor eyesight.

Like the badger, we can have poor vision when it comes to being aware of our relationships with God and other people. We can put our head down and live in our own world. We need to look up in order to discover how we are relating to God and to other people.

There are two ways this can help us. Firstly we can become more aware of our own faults and therefore more compassionate and forgiving to others. We can see this in a story from the 4th century community of the Desert Fathers:

A member of the community had committed a fault so a council was called to judge them. However senior member Abba Moses refused the call to the council. Once the council was assembled the priest sent someone to Abba Moses to tell him, 'Come, everyone is waiting for you.' So Abba Moses got up to go, but first filled a leaky jug of water that he carried to the council. The council members came out to meet him and seeing the jug asked him what it was for. The old man said to them, 'My sins run out behind me, and I do not see them, and today I am coming to judge the error of another.'

The best antidote to us being judgemental and unkind towards others, is to be aware that each of us have faults and that sometimes we do not even see them.

Secondly reflecting on our relationships can help us with the question of who we want to be and what values we want to show. St Paul, writing to the Church in Galatia, helps us answer this question. Paul tells us that when people live in tune with God's Spirit there is an unmistakable effect on their lives. They demonstrate Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control. While these values might be hard to live out they have undeniable benefits to our relationship with God and others.

So in the run up to Easter let's think more deeply about how exploring our own failings might lead us to be kinder and more forgiving to others, and on the values we want to shape our relationships.

Jonathan



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Easter at Christ Church Stannington

Sunday 29th March - Palm Sunday Services at 9am + 10:30am

Come and receive a palm cross as we enter into Holy Week

Monday 30th March - Wednesday 1st April

Join us for **Evening Prayer** each night 7:30-8pm

Thursday 2nd of April - Maundy Thursday Communion at 7:30pm

Remembering Jesus' last meal with his disciples

Friday 3rd April - Good Friday - Exploring Easter - from 10am until midday

Drop in to enjoy crafts and interactive stations to help all ages explore
Jesus' journey to the cross and the meaning behind the Easter Story

Friday 3rd April - An Hour at the Cross - 2pm

A quiet service of prayers and readings about the events leading up to Good Friday

Sunday 5th April - Easter Sunday!

Sunrise Service at 6am (followed by pastries)

Communion Service at 9am

Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt (all free) at 10 am

All Together Service at 11am



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Tickets: £10 (under 25's), £17 - £27 (standard).
Full programme details are on the website.

Look at the birds—Don't worry

Matthew 6:26



by Alison Cook

Last September I found myself on an epic journey. My destination was a bird watching retreat at Kilmalieu, a retreat centre on the Ardgour peninsular. To get a lift to Kilmalieu (aka the middle of nowhere) I needed to be at Fort William train station for 4.00pm. The journey to Fort William involved a 6.00am start, a cycle into Sheffield train station with my suitcase strapped firmly to the bike, five trains, four changes, and a maximum of 10 minutes between trains. To say I was worried was an understatement. The fact I had coincidentally been preaching the previous day on Matthew 6, Look at the Birds and don't worry, confirmed my thoughts, that God has a great sense of timing and humour.



Gannet

The journey went like clockwork, and soon I found myself in the dining room of Kilmalieu with tea and cake and getting to know the rest of the group of people who had gathered to spend 5 days looking at the birds together. Everything seemed good.

However, the West Coast of Scotland is well known for many things, especially the weather and the midges. The good thing is when it rains there aren't any midges. The weather for the whole week was 90% drizzle and low cloud, the rest of the time was persistent rain. I was glad I had brought my coat and hat. I was even more glad that the centre had an excellent drying room, because the weather was not going to put this group of people off going outside. They had come to look at the birds and that was what they were going to do. I had come to learn, and I started on our first walk out. First of all, the attitude of these more seasoned bird watchers. They went out expecting a surprise. They didn't know what they were going to see, but there was a total expectancy to see something and they were excited to find out what that was going to be. And so there we were, standing on the Loch side in the

rain, looking and waiting.

Kestrel



It was an amazing week. We were rewarded with some big sights. Both Golden and White-tailed Eagles did show up, as did a Great Northern Diver, there were seals and some saw otters. But the bird I remember most was a little more common place. We had gone for a morning walk through some ancient woodland. The leaders were doing a great job of showing us some of the lichens and encouraging us to look at them through hand lenses to see more of their structures. They were fascinating, but this was because the birds were more conspicuous by their absence. It was raining steadily and all sensible birds were conserving heat and sheltering until suddenly we heard a burst of beauty, a robin sitting on a top branch singing its heart out. We were being led by a well-known ornithologist who has travelled the world photographing birds. He looked up and with a great smile sighed and said "I do like a robin."

I could have easily stepped into my own back garden and heard a robin sing. But that robin, in that tree, in the company of that group of people brought me joy. The



expectation that we would see something was met in the surprise of this robin's song. This was a bird who knew how to sing in difficult circumstances, and I was reminded of the rest of the passage in Matthew, "Are you not of more value than they."

"Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them." (Ps 111:2)



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Abseiling down the Owen Building for Snowdrop Project

By Vanessa Williams



Why you might ask?

Well although I don't actively enjoy heights on buildings I felt pretty confident I could do it because I'd done one before (although that was over 15 years ago down the Hallamshire Hospital tower and I am an optimist!).



Admittedly, a few days before the event when I realised I was now very definitely 15 years older, I did have a few doubts about my physical ability. Apart from a couple of zip wires I hadn't done anything exciting at height for ages and these days my exercise is confined to Pilates and walking the dog (plus occasionally running after said dog - the escaping English Setter)

Snowdrop staff were very encouraging of course and assured me I'd be fine and we were in the experienced hands of Dolomite Training.

Who or What are Snowdrop?

"The Snowdrop Project is a Sheffield based charity which supports and empowers survivors of modern slavery and exploitation in South Yorkshire to recover from their pasts and rebuild their futures"

snowdropproject.co.uk

This charity was my real motivation to abseil down 12 floors of the Owen Building (the one with the writing on) in October. Christ Church Stannington has been supporting Snowdrop, among other charities, for several years. As their ambassador at church I decided I should get that stylish harness on and get down that wall to raise some money for Snowdrop.

We tend to think of slavery as an historic problem but it's happening right now in the UK as well as all around the world ... and often hidden in plain sight. It's impossible to know the full extent of modern slavery in the UK but it's estimated that more than 130,000 people are trapped in slavery in the UK today.

I signed up to become a Befriender, so had some excellent training which completely opened my eyes to the crime and the damage caused. During my period of befriending I accompanied several ladies to court to give them support and encouragement.

My husband and I also helped with a couple of house renovations.

It wasn't a particularly pleasant October day, chilly with a dash of drizzle, but I had some lovely supporters and the four abseilers in our group were accompanied by the Snowdrop team, one of whom decided to have a go on the day!

Dolomite provided us with an "appropriate" soundtrack playing loudly on the rooftop - many with references to falling/don't look down/take a step, etc! I particularly enjoyed Gloria Gaynor's "I will survive"!! So we were a cheerful group up there chatting and dancing to keep warm.

It is still quite a mental stretch to step up and over that ledge so best not to think about it. The first leg-over is definitely easier than the second! The lovely positive people from Dolomite Training give you lots of advice and the photographer offered help such as:- "lean out" and "smile" and "now wave"! I did all 3 but didn't manage the wave for the photographer, sadly, as I wasn't quite ready to let go of that rope! I did manage to walk down all the way though so was pleased with my steady as you go effort and got some wonderful applause from all the supporters. I felt so elated and relieved that it wasn't a real test for this older body after all; in fact it's much harder chasing after the dog!

I'm thrilled to say my sponsors and I raised over £1000 so thank you to everyone again.

Some statistics about the abseil in October 2025:

13 participants

£5,358 raised

What this could fund for Snowdrop:

*35 house renovations for survivors and their families, turning a house into a home

*107 weekly community activity sessions such as Toddler Group and Sewing Club helping survivors rebuild confidence and connection

*535 hours of counselling, providing vital psychological support to help survivors cope and heal.

So if anyone is enthused/encouraged by my description there is another opportunity to abseil down the Owen Building on 30th May 2026 and raise money for Snowdrop. Other exciting challenges include skydiving - ask me about my skydive (about 20 years ago) another time.

<https://www.snowdropproject.co.uk/events> ■



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2 to 3.15pm in termtime.

Growing hope in a small city space

This Christian Aid Week, your support could help mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, facing the devastating reality of urban poverty and the daily struggle to feed their children.

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.

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.

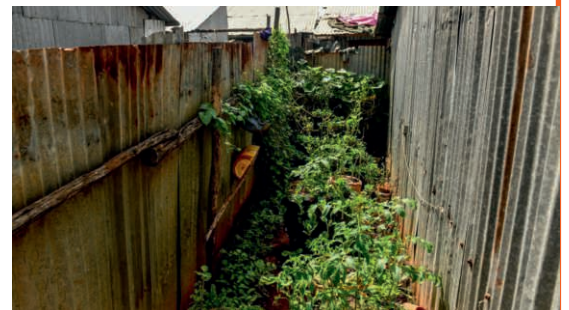
Fridah's situation began to change when she joined Imarisha Kilimo, an urban farming project run by Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope. At first, the idea felt impossible. 'I was wondering, where can someone farm here in Nairobi?', she said. Through training, tools and seeds, Fridah learned how 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, 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. Fridah's faith sustains her through difficult days. It strengthens her resolve to keep going and to provide for her children. 'Now I can plan. I can buy this; I can buy that. I can help my family.' Her urban farm is small, but it carries big hopes. Hopes for education, independence and a future beyond daily uncertainty.

To donate: <https://caw.christianaid.org.uk> ■



Fridah with her grandson, Quillan, outside their house in Dagoretti, Nairobi
Credit: Christian Aid / David Macharia



Fridah's turned a tiny unused space into a source of nutrition and income for her family



Baby Time

Is like Toddler group but is for babies from birth to 24 months. Mums-to-be are also welcome.

Come to meet with other mums, dads and grandmas. Toys, play-mats, good coffee and toast supplied. We are open from 09.30 on Tuesdays; drop in any time up to 11.00.

Find us:

Inside **Christ Church**, Church St, Stannington

Every **Tuesday** in term time **09.30 -11.00**

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Assembly at the Schoolrooms, Mill Lee Rd, Low Bradfield, Sheffield S6 6LB

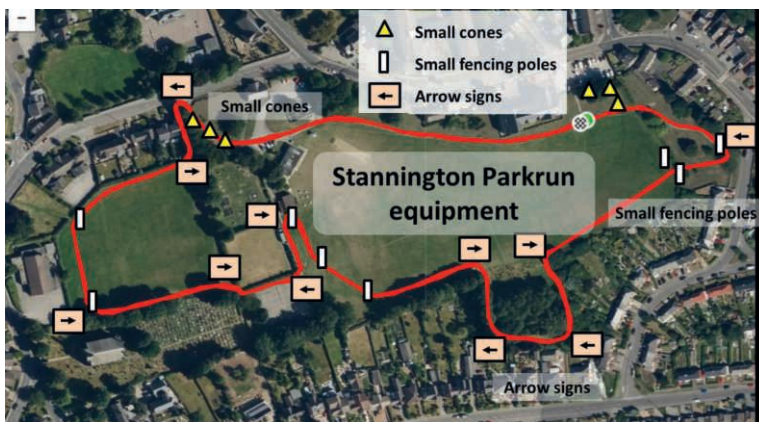
Stannington's Own Park Run?

By Joe Harding

Hello, my name's Joe and I'm hoping to start a Parkrun in Stannington Park. I'm a GP, a keen runner, and a Stannington resident for the last 6 years. I think that Stannington is packed with active and community-minded people, and that Stannington park is a beautiful space - the perfect combination for a Parkrun!

As you may already know, Parkrun is a free, community event every Saturday morning at 9am where people run or walk 5km. They are organised by volunteers and are welcoming and inclusive, with huge benefits for the physical and mental health of everyone involved. There are hundreds of Parkruns across the country, with established events nearby at Hillsborough park and Endcliffe park.

We already have lots of things that we need in place: a group of volunteers, approval from Sheffield City Council to use the park, and the £5k of one-off funding for Parkrun HQ.



At the time of writing we're awaiting approval of our risk assessment and route from Parkrun HQ, and our volunteers are helping at other Parkruns to gain experience. We are also recruiting as many potential volunteers as possible - please join our WhatsApp group if you're interested: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/DFG3JHmTPe6B5v6onnnSK8>

Hopefully we'll be up and running by spring-time!

The route is four laps of the park and is mostly on grass. It starts at the eastern end of the park, goes up the tarmac path to the pavilion, out the car park, straight back up the track, around the top football pitch, between the bowls club and tennis court, towards the cafe briefly before doubling back, heading east along the southern edge by the trees, around the little copse, along the edge again, through the gap in the hedge, across the grass towards the eastern gate, then doubling back up the tarmac path.

If you are a local resident or business with any questions about this proposed parkrun, please email me at joe11harding@hotmail.com. ■

Parish Registers

Funerals

We offer sympathy to the family and friends of

3rd Dec Wayne Knight
4th Mar Doreen Merryman

Cremations

We offer sympathy to the family and friends of

5th Dec Marilyn Farrelley
22nd Jan Rita Barden
27th Feb Pamela Marrison

Burial of Ashes

We offer sympathy to the family and friends of

1st Dec Josephine Fox
2nd Dec Mariette Turner
4th Dec Kay Drabble
7th Jan Jacqueline Fisher
30th Jan Charles William Tyndale Marshall
30th Jan Jean Marshall

To arrange Baptisms, Banns and Weddings please contact the clergy or email info@christchurchstannington.co.uk.

ART SHOW

Underbank Chapel Schoolroom

Stannington S6 6AP

Saturday May 9th 10am-5pm

Admission Free

Pictures, Cards & Refreshments on Sale (Cash only purchases)



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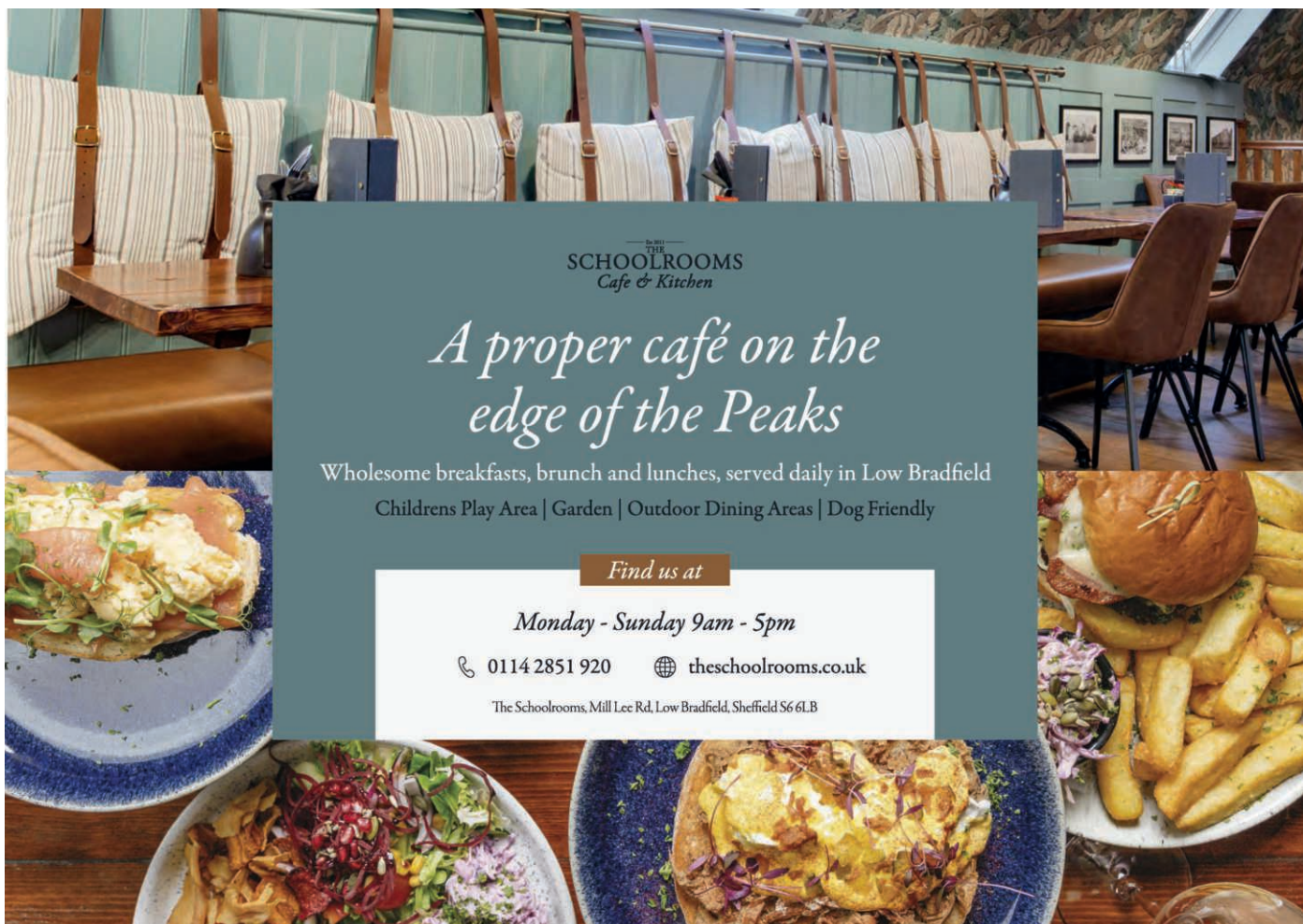
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Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editorial committee, the officers or the Clergy of Christ Church Stannington.

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Stanwood Methodist Church

by Jane Wall



**For weddings, baptisms or funerals please contact
Revd. Judith Jessop tel. 0114 231 3518 or
email judithjessop@tiscali.co.uk**

January lasted forever, so how can we be halfway through February already? What a dismal start to the year it has been, dark cold and wet, we are all in need of some sunshine. If it is bright and sunny, even if it is bitterly cold, you can wrap up warm and get outside in the fresh air, but there is no fun in being outside when it is raining, and paths are muddy! I am very thankful that I don't have a dog to walk! However on a brighter note I have noticed that it is staying lighter much later and the snowdrops are coming out, so that is a sure sign that spring is not far away. God promises that there will always be seasons as long as the earth lasts, so we can be sure that warmer brighter days will come.

Here at Stanwood, life is as busy as ever with our regular activities listed below, but new members are always welcome, so do come along if there is something you fancy.

As we enter Lent we will be thinking about Jesus fasting in the wilderness and about what fasting means for us. We say things like 'I've given up chocolate for Lent' but are we using that to help us draw closer to God? Or are we doing it to look good? We had a sermon on this just recently and it made me think. God is not pleased with our fasting if it is not from the heart, it is a waste of time and effort if it doesn't strengthen our relationship with Him.

At Easter we will be having our traditional Good Friday service at 2.30pm, this is a quiet reflective service as we think about the crucifixion of Jesus and what he suffered for us...then there is the rejoicing on Easter Sunday as we will celebrate the resurrection with a service of Holy Communion. Also for Easter, there will of course be the usual Family Fun with an Easter theme during the Easter holidays, look out for publicity nearer the time ■

Weekly

- Mondays** 12 noon- 1pm Stannington Foodbank: all are welcome, no referral needed - but you will need to provide proof of your address and evidence of your household members, unless you live alone, and bags to take your food home in.
- Tuesdays** 3.30pm - 4.30pm (term time only) Lego social club in association with Stannington TARA. Lego, plus games and arts and crafts. Under 8's must be accompanied by an adult. 50p per child including refreshments.
- Wednesdays** 1.15pm – 2.45pm (term time only) Small Fry stay and play for under 5s and their parents or carers. £2 per family including refreshments.
- Sundays** 10.30am Morning worship



Monthly

- 1st Tuesday** 12 noon - 1.30pm (Food served until 1pm) Snack 'n' chat - a light lunch: soup and a roll followed by a delicious dessert. Only £2.80. No need to book, just come along.
- 3rd Saturday** 10am – 12 noon Charity coffee morning. Tea or coffee with cakes, a speaker or performer and bring and buy stall. All proceeds to the charity of the speaker's choice.
- 18th April: The Wisewood Singers
- 16th May: Paul Iseard: The Portland Works, the birthplace of stainless steel cutlery.
- 20th June: TBA ■



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LOCAL EVENTS

Stannington Mixed Choir

The choir meets to rehearse at Underbank Chapel Schoolroom on Thursdays, 19.15 -21.30.

If you wish to join the choir please contact David: 0114 233 9411 or Sue: 0114 234 8500

www.stanningtonchoir.com



The Peacock Inn, 19.45 for 20.00 start.

Thursday 26th March: Simon talks about participation in the Lanzarote ironman competition.

Thursday 21st May: Rowing across the Atlantic with Mike.

Grab a pint, meet and connect with others, get inspired. It's free!

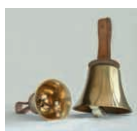
Check out our previous talks: bit.ly/StanningtonAdventureStories

Stannington Handbell Ringers

Meet Monday evenings 19.30 - 21.00 in the Church Hall, School Lane.

New members most welcome, even if you do not read music.

Anyone interested please contact Carolyn on 234 7408 or 07306 217 572



Stannington Local History Group

The Group usually meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 8.00pm in the Knowle Room of Lomas Hall.

All are welcome.

23rd Apr Bess of Hardwick.
Maureen S Taylor

26th May The History of Well Farm in Stannington and my family's connections to it.
Simon Mander

25th June Fearfully and wonderfully made. The extraordinary life of Joseph Merrick "The Elephant Man"
Ann Featherstone -

23rd July The Life of Mary Anne Rawson and her connections with the ladies anti slavery group in Sheffield
Jean Hine

Annual Membership: £5.00.

Monthly Meetings: Members £3.00,
Non-members £4.00

Contacts: Elaine Jenkins 232 6973
Paul Bellamy 233 8059
Norma Reaney 234 1096

www.stanningtonhistorygroup.org.uk

Natter

Natter is a relaxed and friendly place for a chat in Stannington. Hot drinks and good company every Tuesday at 10.30 for an hour. Everyone welcome especially those age 60 or better. We meet in Hall Park Community Centre (82 bus terminus, S6 5QU, plenty of free parking, wheelchair accessible). Please text 07768 293 406 for more details.

Stannington TARA

www.facebook.com/stampartnership



SHEFFIELD GUTTER SERVICES

SEAMLESS ALUMINIUM GUTTERING BUILT TO LAST



We provide professional gutter cleaning, repairs, and replacements across Sheffield, Chesterfield, and the surrounding areas. Our experienced team works with all types of guttering, from uPVC plastic and seamless aluminium to timber and cast iron, as well as fascias and soffits.

Known for our quality workmanship, fair pricing, and friendly service, we're the local gutter specialists you can trust.

Our Services

We provide a complete range of professional guttering services across Sheffield, helping to protect your property from leaks, blockages, and water damage. From cleaning and repairs to full installations, our skilled team works with all types of guttering, including uPVC, wooden, aluminium, and period systems, delivering quality results that last.

Aluminium Guttering - 25 Year Guarantee

High-quality aluminium guttering with a 25-year guarantee, offering a sleek finish and exceptional durability.

Soffits & Fascias

Replacement and repair of soffits and fascias to protect your roofline and enhance your home's appearance.

Gutter Cleaning

Thorough gutter cleaning to remove leaves, debris, and blockages, keeping your gutters flowing freely all year round.

Gutter Guard Installation

Protect your gutters from leaves and debris with durable guards, reducing maintenance and extending gutter life.

Gutter Repair & Installation

Reliable repairs and professional installation for all gutter types, ensuring your property stays protected from leaks and water damage.

Period Guttering Restoration

Specialist restoration and installation of period guttering to maintain your property's original character.



We are ★★★★★ rated with:



www.sheffieldgutterservices.co.uk

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