



The Beacon

Newsletter of St John's Church—June 2026

FORTY YEARS AT ST JOHN'S

Ann and Andrew Rutherford

Inside this issue

P1

A message from
Ann & Andrew
Rutherford

P2

Girl Guides
update

March for Jesus

P3

Barbara's Story

P4

Sandra from
Uganda

P 5

United Church
event at
Workshop Arena

P 6—7

Dates to re-
member

About St John's
What's on each
week

We moved to Workshop on 30th April 1986 – the next day the Workshop Bypass was opened!

St John's church was recommended to us as evangelical so we gave it a try. In those days a robed choir processed to their places, the Vicar preached from the pulpit and on entering church you were presented with a prayer book and a hymn book. But this was all right – we were used to it.

One thing that sticks in my mind was the autumn Houseparty to Scarborough. We had indoor games, a Speaker and plenty of opportunity to get to know people and enjoy deeper fellowship.



Another landmark was the decision to build Christ Church. This was done at a Church council meeting when, after prayer the decision was made to go for the larger option and ask for sacrificial giving. I spent many a Saturday morning on the site, labouring and watching with interest the growth and development of the building.

Ann was ordained as a Reader in 2008 and has found a vocation in speaking, leading services and taking funerals.

The church has been the focus of our Christian lives through its teaching and the fellowship of Christian friends. During those years there have been ups and downs, but we have been nourished and thankful for all that has been for us and our family.

Andrew

Coming to the end of yet another term, (how quickly this year is going!) I thought it would be good to let people know what St Johns Guides have been doing.

After a visit to Redlands School in March, we have been pleased to welcome some new girls to our unit, they are fitting in well and are actively participating in our activities.

During this term we have:
 painted on glass
 made Mothers' Day cards
 baked Melting Moments
 learned to knit and used our
 knitting and sewing skills to make pet blankets for Thornberry Pet Rescue



We have also continued with crafts for a fund raising event
 completed guide programme topics
 around: Conservation of Animal Environments, My Beliefs/Values, Rock Painting, Self Development themes etc.

We have been to Roughbreck Guide Camp site for a BBQ, Den Building, Scavenger Hunt and Games night and have had a visit from Thornberry Pet Rescue staff to talk to us about their work and to receive our knitted blankets and pet food donations.

Next term, Tuesday evenings are just as full of activities, and we are always pleased to welcome new girls who are 10 – 14 years of age who would like to come along and see what we do.
 (Tuesdays 6.15–8.00pm in the Church Hall)
 Contact Sue 07813293107
 or Nat 07870357194

MARCH FOR JESUS

The March For Jesus is:

(taken from their website:
themarchforjesus.org)

'A procession of praise through the streets of the city, celebrating the Lordship of Jesus Christ and culminating in a grand worship event in which Christians publicly proclaim the Glory, the Majesty and the Supremacy of the Savior. It's all about Jesus ... and nothing else.

What better time of the year the Church to declare its oneness? Pentecost Weekend. Pentecost marks the birth of the Church and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to all nations. (Acts 2:1-4) Let's celebrate our Saviour in cities, towns and villages throughout the nation in a March For Jesus, this year on Saturday, May 23th, 2026' in London, and earlier in Belfast, May 16th, 2026.



Brings back great memories of about 25 years ago when a few St John's and Christchurch people would travel to major UK cities to join in the witness and celebrations. Sadly, when tens of thousands Christians march, the media generally has little interest. Check out on YouTube and be uplifted.

Chris L



What St John's Means to me—Barbara Baldwin's Story

I moved to Ranskill from Orpington, Kent 35 years ago and although my previous church was Pentecostal, as a family we decided to go to our local village church. Some years ago I moved to Retford but still continued to go to Ranskill church on a Sunday. Then a couple of years ago I decided it was time to go somewhere closer to home. So I prayed about it and God brought me here!

I knew of St. John's as I had met Sue Dawson and Phill Kicks on a 'Journey into Life' course, but I first came to the church when my daughter, Mary, asked me to go with her to an evening service.

I felt immediately at home. Everyone made me feel welcome and there was a genuine warmth from folk. I began coming every now and then to morning services even when Mary couldn't come with me. The more I came the more I felt part of this wonderful family. And even though it wasn't the 'local' church I had been envisaging it was evident that this was where God wanted me to be.

The church I attended down South was a wonderful mix of different age groups and different cultures with a desire to know God more and grow in faith. I spent a wonderful 25 years growing up there not just physically but, more importantly, spiritually. And it is as though God has brought me back once more into a similar church family here at St. John's where I can continue to grow in Him. For we never stop growing in Christ. Whatever age we are there is always something to learn. God is so good. If we let Him He will always put us in the best possible place where we can grow and 'yield our fruit in season' (Psalm 1 u3).

I thank God for bringing me here (hopefully you will all feel the same - time will tell!) I thank Him for this wonderful and varied family. Together may we go forward learning more about Him and growing in our faith. Who knows I may spend 25 years here, not necessarily growing up but definitely growing much older in this family!

Barbara Baldwin



WELL DONE IAN!

Congratulations to Ian Walsham who has recently completed his fundraising hike of 13 miles in the Yorkshire Dales. He has raised over £400 for an Alzheimer's charity.





Sandra Merriman. Sandra 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 and also as a youth leader. She 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 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 AID's victims. Over the years the work expanded and her role in YWAM Uganda grew from that of 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 the other bases throughout the country. It has been a long road from coming to St. John's many years ago to where she is now. She deserves and needs our prayers and our material support.



ONE BIG THANK YOU!

To Alan and Josie Hardstaff
who are retiring from caring
for our church gardens after
20 years!

Thanks for your ongoing commitment to cheering up the car park as well as the parts we don't see so often.

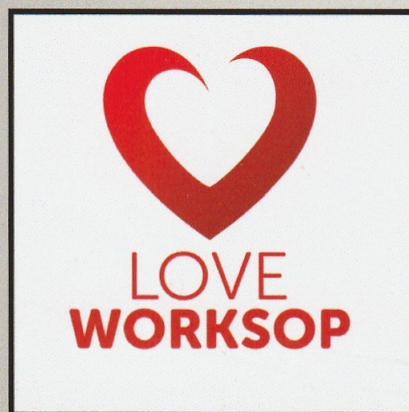
WORSHIP – WAIT – PRAISE – PRAY

LAST SEPTEMBER WE GATHERED TOGETHER ON CASTLE HILL TO WORSHIP GOD AND PRAY FOR WORKSOP.

WE BELIEVE THE LORD IS CALLING HIS PEOPLE TOGETHER AGAIN WITH THESE WORDS:

“Gather together under one roof and wait on Me”

UNITED
CHURCH
GATHERING



Come and Go

~~~

Come and  
Stay

~~~

Go and Come
Back

Psalm 130:5

“This is why I wait upon You, expecting Your breakthrough, for Your Word brings me hope”

SUNDAY, 31ST MAY, 2026

NORTH NOTTS COMMUNITY ARENA

EASTGATE, WORKSOP S80 1QS

(FREE PARKING - FREE TEA / COFFEE / SOFT DRINKS - SEATING)

DOORS OPEN 7PM UNTIL 11PM

COME AND GO
COME AND STAY
GO AND COME BACK!

LET'S ALL GATHER TOGETHER FOR WORKSOP

LPF@wcc-church.com



2 NEW YOUTH MINISTRIES IN JUNE

A Youth Group will meet on Wednesdays (from 10th June) from 6.30—8.00pm in the church hall. Youth who are in school years 6—11 can attend. Voluntary donation of £2 to cover costs. Please invite young people you know who may be interested.

Youth Church will meet on Sunday mornings for any young people in Year 6 or above. They will meet during the morning service in the church hall.

Tuesday @ 10, June 30th

Coffee Morning

**Our visiting speaker this month is our own
John Hodgkins**

'A Social History in 21 Items'

(Mr Straw's House)

ALL WELCOME



And Finally.....

Think you know it all?

**"It's better to know JESUS and not have all the answers
than to have all the answers but not know JESUS"**



About St J's



St John's is a Bible-based, evangelical Anglican Church, open to the moving of the Holy Spirit.

We aim to show the love of Christ to all.

Our main Sunday worship is at 10.30a.m. There is 'Kids' Church' for children aged 3 years and over. Also a creche for under 3s. '**Sunday @ 6**' is an informal evening meeting in the church lounge.

We welcome all who come into our buildings for any reason.

Prayer underpins everything as we support each other in a loving community and reach out to others.



Sunday Services

10.30 am Morning Worship
+ Kids, Church
6.00 pm Sunday @ 6.00
Informal service in the
Church Hall Lounge

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

Vicar: Revd Gareth Banton 07897 005843
garethrbanton@gmail.com

Church Website:

www.stjohnschurchworksop.co.uk

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

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 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*



Follow us on Facebook

'St John's Church, Worksop'