

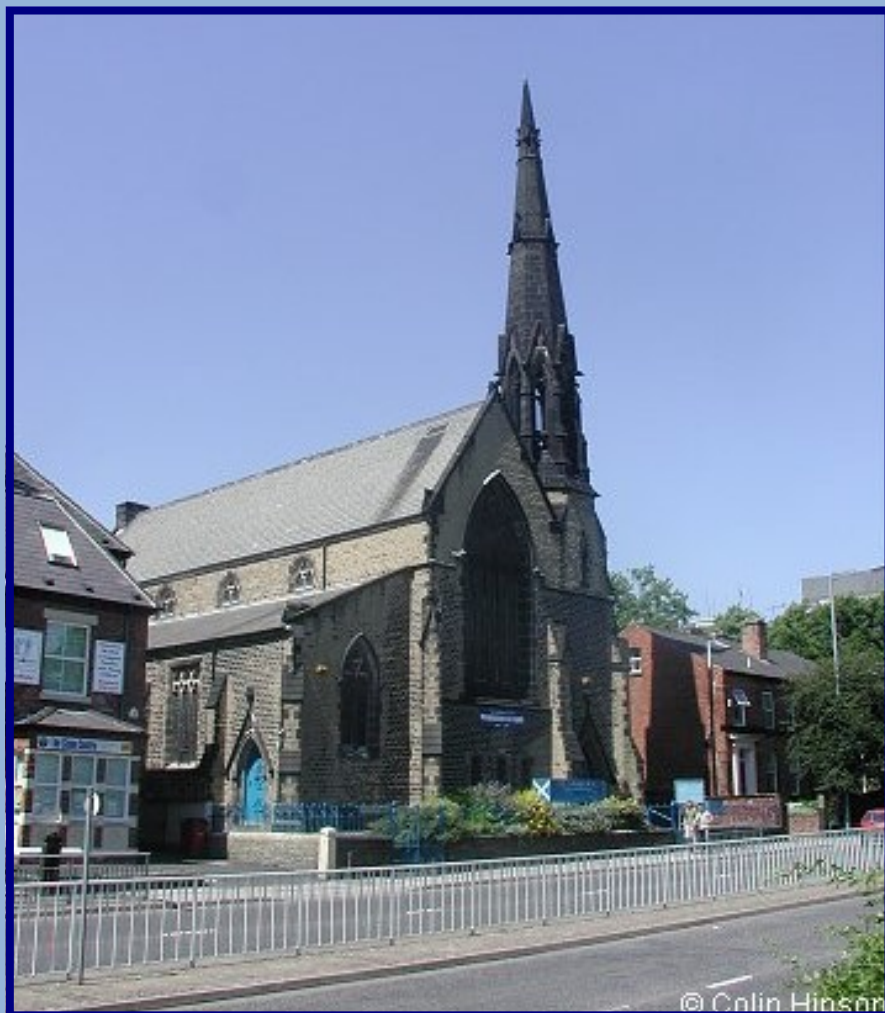
**ST. ANDREWS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

**Upper Hanover Street, Sheffield, S3 7RQ**

# **MESSENGER**

Price £1.25

November 2021



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## IN TUNE WITH COP26

*This hymn might have been written for it.*

God in his love for us lent us this planet,  
gave it a purpose in time and in space;  
small as a spark from the fire of creation,  
cradle of life and the home of our race.

Thanks be to God for its bounty and beauty,  
life that sustains us in body and mind;  
plenty for all, if we learn how to share it,  
riches undreamed of to fathom and find.

Long have our human wars ruined its harvest;  
long has earth bowed to the terror of force;  
long have we wasted what others have need of,  
poisoned the fountain of life at its source.

Earth is the Lord's; it is ours to enjoy it,  
ours, as is stewards, to farm and defend.  
From its pollution, misuse and destruction,  
good Lord, deliver us, world without end !

*F Pratt Green*

*(Rejoice and Sing 85)*



## FAMILY NEWS

Our long-standing member, **Marion Butcher**, celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 3rd November. Congratulations and all good wishes! Marion is not able to get to church now but we remember seeing her regularly at communion services. It is good to know that she keeps in reasonably good health and enjoys her family close by.

**Pat Thomas** (who is Marion's cousin) sends her best wishes to everyone who remembers her and Barry. Love and good wishes also to everyone from **Robert Beard**.

**Dorothy Adam** has been in the Northern General for over five weeks with breathing problems but is now glad to be home with NHS support for the time being to help Anne.

Twenty two church members and friends enjoyed lunch at the Norfolk Arms at Ringinglow on 10 November. Pleasant meal, service and atmosphere, and a nice opportunity to chat and catch up.

It was good to see our former member **David Hill** at the lunch. After some health problems, quite a long spell in hospital and then care, David is feeling much better, glad to be home and coping well.

News also of former members **Margaret and Ian Strachan**, who now live in Blairgowrie. They have had some ups and downs in health but are on an even keel now.

**Christina Stark** and her partner David have returned to the sunshine of Florida after being marooned here since the beginning of the pandemic. They both have long-term health conditions and had to keep strict quarantine except for hospital visits. Christina found the Zoom services a great comfort. They will be back in mid-February but meanwhile wish all at St Andrew's a wonderful Christmas season and a happy healthy 2022.

Sadly, we have to record the death of Mrs Alker, Adrian's mother. She died peacefully in her care home with family around on 26 October. She had celebrated her 104<sup>th</sup> birthday in May.

## CHURCH NEWS

### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 14 November:

Our usual service of solemn ceremony was observed by members and some visitors, with a special anthem from the choir and the lovely trumpet playing of Gordon Truman. Thanks to Douglas Jones for arranging all the music, and a beautiful voluntary with Gordon to conclude the service.

**CALEDONIAN SUNDAY** and first Sunday in **ADVENT**.  
**NOVEMBER 28TH**

As we have no service leader this service is being planned by members of the Worship Group and the Caledonian Society. While Saint Andrew will feature in the service, the main focus will be Advent and the theme of hope, Members of the church and society will speak about a time in their lives when they were suffering sadness, or grief, or loss, or despair, yet experienced a feeling of hope.

Thank you to everyone who contributed.

There will be a retiring collection in aid of Sheffield Children's Hospital, which is President Norman Macaskill's chosen local charity.

**DECEMBER 5TH**

This is our regular communion service and we are also collecting warm clothing for Asylum Seekers and others in need. See page 7.

**CAROL SERVICE**

Sunday 12 December, with mince pies and coffee to follow. Come and sing!

**DECEMBER 26TH**

The Elders have decided not to hold a service on Boxing Day as we have no service leader on that date and many members will be away. We are looking forward to an excellent attendance on Christmas Day when families and visitors gather.

**FLOWERS IN CHURCH**

I am sure that like me you want to see flowers in the Church. Since we opened the Church for worship I have been putting flowers in. I enjoy it but I am sure that some of you would like to do them yourselves or ask me to put the flowers in for you.

I will put a Christmas arrangement in from the 19<sup>th</sup> December until after the New Year.

Many thanks  
*Jean Dickson*

**SHOEBOXES**

I would like to say a big thank you to all the ladies who contributed a shoebox to the shoebox appeal. Linda Callear did a magnificent four boxes, myself three and Barbara Macmillan two. Shelagh Beach, Kathleen Smyth, Elizabeth Draper, Isabel Sandland and the Middleton family all produced one each. This made us a total of 14. These regulars have supported the scheme for many years now and you only have to go on the Operation Christmas Child website to see the joy on the children's faces on receiving the box. Thank you also to Sheila Cooke who made a financial contribution. This is always welcome towards transport.

*Sheila Dunstan*

## **REFORM**

The monthly publication by the URC is an interesting and thought-provoking read with a variety of topics and news. It costs £29.50 for 10 paper issues by post or £18 for 10 issues sent digitally.

Do talk to Barbara Macmillan if you would like more details or a subscription form.

## **CALENDAR**

To mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its creation, the United Reformed Church has issued a handsome calendar for 2022 featuring some 50 photos of URC churches throughout the UK. Our church is not shown although we did send in a picture but there are many others called St Andrew's. We will put the calendar in the vestry so you can see the vast variety of styles and age.

The Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church Union came together in 1972 to form the URC, later joined by the Church of Christ. There will be other celebratory activities throughout next year.

## **LET THERE BE LIGHT**

A firm has been found to undertake the major task of cleaning all the windows in our building, inside and out. No one can remember when they were last cleaned ! The cleaners have to take off all the grilles to reach the windows and do the job by hand, because they cannot use pressure hoses on such delicate old glass. The grilles are stiff but, once replaced, they will be easier to remove next time if the cleaners come more frequently.

The work will be done in the week beginning 22 November.

## **GOOD STEWARDSHIP**

The church has recently undergone Synod's Quinquennial Inspection and the surveyor commented that we should be proud of our stewardship of the buildings - the best kept church in the Synod! We had done all the items on their sample maintenance list. Congratulations and thanks to everyone involved in the Management Team and Premises Group.

The annual Inspection by South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service is also due, for which a vast amount of documentation has to be presented - policies, risk assessments, drill and evacuation plans, etc . . . Ours were all in immaculate order, and sent online, thanks to Ian Cooke.

## **SCOTLAND'S SACRED ISLANDS**

This is a four-part television series in which Ben Fogle travels first through the Inner and Outer Hebrides and then Shetland, exploring the religious and spiritual significance of these islands. The scenery is, of course, wonderful. The film crew were blessed with remarkably good weather and the islands are stunningly beautiful. Ben talks to an interesting variety of people about their reasons for living there, their feelings about the atmosphere and way of life in such a remote area, and their faith.

The series aired on BBC1 on Sunday mornings in October but can still be found on BBC IPlayer. Highly recommended.

## THE BEGINNING

Sheffield Cathedral's Christmas lights spectacular returns to the city this year for six nights, opening on Tuesday, **November 30**. Called 'The Beginning', it marks the start of the Cathedral's Christmas celebrations and runs until December 5.

Visitors will be treated to illuminations projected across the exterior facade of the Cathedral which will include the telling of the Nativity story. They will then inside for an immersive multi-sensory experience with music and lights inspired by the Cathedral's stained-glass windows and enjoy more than 30 beautifully decorated Christmas trees.

The Beginning follows the success of the Cathedral's first ever light show called 'The Angels are Coming' In December 2019. The Reverend Canon Keith Farrow, Vice Dean and Canon Missioner of Sheffield Cathedral, said: "The celebration of the birth of Christ signifies new hope. 'The Beginning' represents this in so many ways. It is the beginning of Advent and the anticipation of Christmas at the Cathedral and we want to share the hope and joy of the Christmas story with everyone. Everyone is welcome to start their Christmas celebrations with us."

Tickets for The Beginning are on sale from [www.sheffield-cathedral.org](http://www.sheffield-cathedral.org) or in person from the Cathedral gift shop. Adult tickets are £7.50, children aged three-15: £6, under threes free, carers £3.

Contact Sheffield Cathedral to purchase.



*And here is the river of poppies flowing down the steps of the military chapel in the Cathedral for this year's Remembrance.*

## HELP NEEDED

### FOOD BANK:

*"I was hungry and you gave me food."*

There is a box at the back of the church every Sunday for your donations for the Food Bank.

Food banks are struggling to meet a steep rise in demand. The Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN) says that food surplus supplies are running dry and public donation levels have dropped. Food bank usage had already reached record levels before the pandemic - in 2019, 43% of UK households were food insecure. The situation is made worse now by rising energy and food prices and reduced deliveries by HGV drivers. Many food bank teams are exhausted and volunteer numbers have dropped.

### WARM CLOTHES

*"I was naked and you clothed me."*

Sharewear Clothing Scheme provides high quality clothing, shoes, bedding and bath towels free of charge to people in need. This enables people to attend interviews for jobs and training, send their children to school, have a supply of clothes to go to work until they get out of debt, keep warm, dry and healthy. Referrals can also access other support services and begin to rebuild their lives.

Sharewear, founded in 2014, is the only scheme of its kind in the country. It is **based** mainly in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

### BABY BASICS

Baby Basics is a national charity based in Sheffield. It is working with the Home Office and a coalition of charities called Afghan Welcome that have come together to support families being resettled from Afghanistan into the UK. They are delivering essential equipment to places where Afghans staying after fleeing the Taliban.

Baby Basics was set up in 2009 by midwives and health visitors who saw the growing need for practical help for new mothers unable to afford the basic essentials and equipment necessary to look after their newborns. It now supports vulnerable families with children from pre-birth to five years old and has spread to 53 centres across the UK.

There is an ever growing network of churches and community groups around the country running a Baby Basics project for their local community, and in Sheffield it has recently moved to a huge new warehouse.

## THE PULPIT FALL

You will notice that the pulpit fall is missing. I have taken it away to repair it. It has been badly mishandled, breaking the cardboard inside. I hope to have it repaired in a few weeks. *Jean Dickson*

*And here is Jean's account of the creation of this beautiful piece of art:*

## STITCHING A RAINBOW

At the dedication of the Pulpit Fall I promised to tell how it was made: how it grew from photographs, sketches and ideas jotted down in my sketchbook: how a piece of white cotton became a rainbow.

When I started thinking about stitching a Pulpit Fall in September 2000, it was to be the 'site specific' object for part two of my City and Guilds in Embroidery. I spent many hours pondering what it should look like.

I wanted something which would stand out from the back of the church and would bring people to look more closely. I was looking for that special 'wow factor'. My sketchbook followed the process from start to finish.

The rainbow came from a number of ideas, the colours of the table runners, the colours in the windows and the colour of the cushions.

I decided that I would use the unused cushion material for the background. How do you stitch a rainbow? You can't buy rainbow material. Rainbow colours melt into each other. I realised that I would have to dye or paint the fabric. After experimenting with dyes and paints I chose very high quality acrylic paint which is washable, permanent and unlikely to fade.

There is a photo in my book of some of my experiments with painting the cotton strips, showing them hanging on the clothes-line. I lost count of the number of paper mock-ups I made. One using seven strips stood out. On the way many of the cotton strips had to be discarded. In some the colours were too uneven or not the right shade but eventually I had seven useable strips. These I backed with pelmet vilene so that they would hang properly. The vilene had to be stitched on: glue doesn't last. The stitching used metallic thread following a wavy line to pick up the theme of the rainbow arch. I rapidly discovered that mistakes left permanent stitch marks! Once the strips had been stitched I embroidered three with the little motifs taken from my many photos from around the church, drawn as little sketches and tested as mock-ups before deciding how to use them.

Where did the motifs come from? The red cross is above the pulpit and on the St Andrew window. The burning bush was on the old pulpit fall and is on the back of the Minister's chair. The little yellow flowers were taken from carvings on the pulpit and the communion table. The ivy can be found among many of the carvings. The St Andrew's Cross was on the old lectern fall and is on the stained glass window above the organ pipes. The honeysuckle is in the carving on the little reading desk on the communion table and on the lectern, and you can see the fish at the top of the right hand stained glass window.

The little symbols too had to last. The red-cross was cut out of red cotton and, after the gold thread had been couched in place, machine stitched on. The burning bush was painted on and then overstitched by machine. The three little yellow flowers were cut from left-over painted cotton, hand stitched and finished off with some little beads. The ivy leaves were also cut from painted cotton and applied on using silver thread. The St Andrew's cross was cut from crystal organza and machine stitched in place. The honeysuckle was hand embroidered following a Jacobean style and finished with a few beads. The three little fish were cut from crystal organza and hand stitched. They are my favourites.

Three flowers, three ivy leaves, three fish and three parts to the honeysuckle are symbolic, linking with the Trinity. The crosses are: St George's as we live in England, St Andrew's for the church, and the URC symbol declaring who we are today.

Have you spotted the mistake with the rainbow? I took designer's licence! It looked wrong the correct way up and didn't fit or match the line of the organ pipes. The URC symbol I made by stitching blue satin bias binding to make the shape, covered it with crystal organza made into bias strips and stitched it with metallic thread.

Suddenly the pulpit fall and the lectern fall were finished. I felt that I had achieved the effect I wanted. The wow factor was there.

*Jean Dickson*



## THE MANSFIELD TRAQUAIR CENTRE

Mansfield Place Edinburgh.

This amazing Church was commissioned by the Catholic Apostolic Church, designed by Sir Robert Rowland Anderson and completed in 1888. Our group called in after it had ceased to be a church but had been rescued by the Mansfield Traquair Trust and can now be hired as a venue for dinners, weddings and conferences. A multi-million-pound renovation of the building was completed in 2002 and the restoration of the murals was completed in 2005.

The murals, painted by Phoebe Anna Traquair in 1892, are stunning and decorate the upper walls. They are painted in the Arts and Crafts style, some portraying both Old and New Testament scenes. The mural I remember most vividly depicts those chubby angels already in Heaven holding their hands out to those babies who had just died to help them into Heaven. Well worth a visit and a chance to support the Trust.

*Margaret Fall*



*The first of what I hope will be a series of memories of places visited by Margaret's Holidays.*

## PLAYING MARY

The two photographs were taken at the History re-enactment day up at Manor Lodge. I am Mary Seton, one of Mary's four Maries. I did her hair for her and came to Sheffield with her, being unmarried.

The other photo is of Mary Queen of Scots, who spent such a lot of time at the Manor. Many of us are dressed up in our costumes for the Tudor period. I am having trouble with my headdress so must visit the sewing team for some help.

In the picture I am holding a little owl as part of the falconry display. The birds are flown and children are encouraged to get involved. Unfortunately, a kestrel flew into a tree and would not come down so they could not fly him again.

Other groups there doing enactments were 15<sup>th</sup> century knights with very dramatic fighting, 1780 redcoats and Viking groups. Another highlight was battle axe throwing. The Archery group had to pull out which was disappointing as the children love having a go at this.

*Sheila Dunstan*



*With Remembrance Day once more in mind, here is the story of*  
**SHEFFIELD'S LINKS TO FIRST WORLD WAR MEMORIALS**

*The writer is the late Chris Beardsall who had family links to the Sheffield people involved.*

The Sheffield Pals City Battalion was formed in 1914 through direct recruiting in the city and part of the York and Lancaster regiment. 'Pals' battalions were made up of groups of men who had enlisted together thus allowing friends, neighbours and colleagues to serve alongside each other.

On July 1<sup>st</sup> 1916, the first day of the Somme, the Sheffield Pals and 100,000 British and French troops were ordered forward in the bright July sunshine. Unknown to them the constant bombardment had not been as successful as had been hoped. The result was that 20,000 allied soldiers were killed that day including 512 from the Sheffield Pals battalion.

After the war Sheffield made a decision to help villages in the Somme Valley and the two we know most about are Bapaume and Serre. In researching this I have found that I have direct family links with what was achieved.

Bapaume: After the war the City of Sheffield provided financial help to build twelve houses and a creche/school in Bapaume. Originally the creche was known as 'The Wardley Creche' after my great-grandfather Alderman W F Wardley, JP, to commemorate his work on behalf of the town of Bapaume in 1920 and his association with it afterwards. Alderman Wardley was a table blade forger, the first Labour (Lib/Lab) Lord Mayor of Sheffield. (He also is believed to be responsible for first setting up links between the Metallurgy Dept of the university and those engaged in the cutlery trade.) The finance for the Bapaume initiative was provided by Mr George Lawrence, a razor manufacturer and philanthropist.

In July 1939 a Pilgrimage was organised by the Sheffield branch of the British War Graves Association. It was led by the Sheffield Lord Mayor, Alderman W J Hunter JP and his daughter the Lady Mayoress. In Bapaume Mr and Mrs Lawrence presented each school child with a cased set of stainless steel cutlery inscribed in both French and English. A Casket was installed in Bapaume Town Hall containing the Sheffield Roll of Honour, the Book of Remembrance with the names of the 4,898 Sheffield men who fell or died of wounds in the Great War. The Casket containing the Roll was designed, constructed and given by Mr Maurice Swift of Sheffield. It was elaborately designed in oak and bronze and lined with silk velvet.

The school building, now known as L'ecole Lawrence, houses a small museum on the first floor with the Casket and examples of the boxed cutlery. A young girl, Jean Revill, then aged approximately 10 years, was invited to accompany the party as a reward for her examination successes. I discovered that she married a man named Maurice Bamfield, whom I knew quite well as a Methodist local preacher and a college lecturer.



Serre: The Rev Ozanne, the Lord Mayor's chaplain, was also chaplain for a memorial service in Serre on 9 July 1939. In 1927 the Sheffield-Serre Memorial Committee, whose chairman was Alderman W F Wardley, had the opportunity of securing for all time a Memorial Park in Serre in memory of all the Sheffield men who fell in war, whether in air, on land, or at sea. Serre was chosen as the Sheffield Battalion was intimately connected with the area. Sheffield paid the War Graves Commission for its upkeep.

The land was fenced and a shelter provided in which a stainless steel casket was given by Sir Robert Hadfield, Bart, FRS. This was enclosed in a teak case with a glass front, made and presented by Walker & Hall. The money raised for this memorial was £978 which includes the proceeds of a football match between Sheffield Wednesday and Huddersfield Town which raised £248 and £60 given by the Sheffield Town Trust. This fund also provided for a Memorial Panel and Roll of Honour in the Sheffield City Memorial Hall.

Attempts were made to re-establish links with the French towns when Enid Hattersley was Lord Mayor. Unfortunately, due to its association with war, Enid refused to let the Council become involved.

*Chris Beardsell*



## ASSIST

The October 2021 issue of ASSIST News shows some new developments. ASSIST challenges asylum destitution through providing support and accommodation and through campaigning.

In August they opened new covid-safe emergency accommodation to provide safe spaces for recently evicted people seeking asylum in our city. The house in Broomhall is being run in partnership with South Yorkshire Housing Association. The 5- bedroomed hostel replaces the night shelter which had to close down at the start of the first lockdown.

This new accommodation is intended to meet the immediate needs of people with refused asylum claims whose support is being terminated, as the Home Office moratorium on evictions comes to an end following the lifting of Covid restrictions.

ASSIST has also launched its own online shop. Their cards and some aprons are currently available. Do take a look:

<https://www.assistsheffield.org.uk/visit-our-shop>

## LECTIONARY READINGS for November and December

Nov 7	Ruth <b>3</b> : 1-5, 4: 13-17; Psalm <b>127</b> ; Hebrews 9: 24-28; Mark <b>12</b> : 38-44
Nov 14	1 Samuel <b>1</b> : 4-20, <b>2</b> : 1-10; Psalm <b>16</b> ; Mark <b>13</b> : 1-8
Nov 21	2 Samuel <b>23</b> : 1-7; Psalm <b>132</b> : 1-12, (13-18); Revelation <b>1</b> : 4b-8; John <b>18</b> : 33-37
Nov 28	Jeremiah <b>33</b> : 14-16; Psalm <b>25</b> : 1-10;
<i>Advent</i>	1 Thessalonians <b>3</b> : 9-13; Luke <b>21</b> : 25-36
Dec 5	Malachi <b>3</b> : 1-4; Philippians <b>1</b> : 3-11; Luke <b>1</b> : 68-79 Luke <b>3</b> : 1-6
Dec 12	Zephaniah <b>3</b> : 14-20; Isaiah <b>12</b> : 2-6; Philippians <b>4</b> : 4-7; Luke <b>3</b> : 7-18
Dec 19	Micah <b>5</b> : 2-5a; Psalm <b>80</b> : 1-7; Hebrew <b>10</b> : 5-10; Luke <b>1</b> : 39-45, 46-55
Dec 26	1 Samuel <b>2</b> : 18-29, 25; Psalm <b>148</b> ; Colossians <b>3</b> : 12-17; Luke <b>2</b> : 41-52

## A HERITAGE WALK

Every September, Heritage Week gives everyone the opportunity to go into places that are not usually open to the public - churches, archives, old houses, interesting corners - and there are tours and walks with guides to tell all about it. This year I did a Heritage Walk from Parkwood Springs to Hillsborough Park, and it was a real exploration.

Parkwood Springs is a large level grassy open area on Shirecliffe Road, with parking and ample space for dog walking, games and picnics. We were led across it - sighting a deer on the way - and the far side drops away into the hillside where the Ski slope used to be. The view over the city is amazing, more than 180°. We followed clear paths through the trees and undergrowth, gradually descending in a wide zigzag. We skirted the new housing estate where Shirecliffe College used to be, saw traces of the fabric and fencing of the old ski slope, and a circular gathering place at one viewpoint for parties, fireworks, etc. It wasn't all that easy identifying all the buildings we could see below. Our route then took us through an old cemetery, across the River Don, and came out near Owlerton Stadium, across Penistone Road and into Hillsborough Park, where there was more history about the house that was the library.

This hillside is heavily wooded - but this is not ancient woodland by any means. In the General Strike of 1926, unemployed people were so desperate that they gradually cut all the trees down for fuel; and the same thing happened in the dreadful frozen winter of 1947 when coal was in short supply. But the slopes are fully clothed in green again; you can't see the Ski slope now from below.

We had an excellent guide who orientated us and told us much history. He was a member of the Parkwood Springs Trust, a volunteer group which liaises with the City Council to preserve and develop the area as a nature reserve. It is a deer route, and kites and buzzards are common.; another of Sheffield's natural assets.

I can recommend Heritage Week in general and this walk in particular. It was about three and a half miles and mostly downhill (!) and gives you a different perspective on the city.

*Elizabeth Draper*

*[Can we have some more ideas of interesting local places to visit, please ?]*