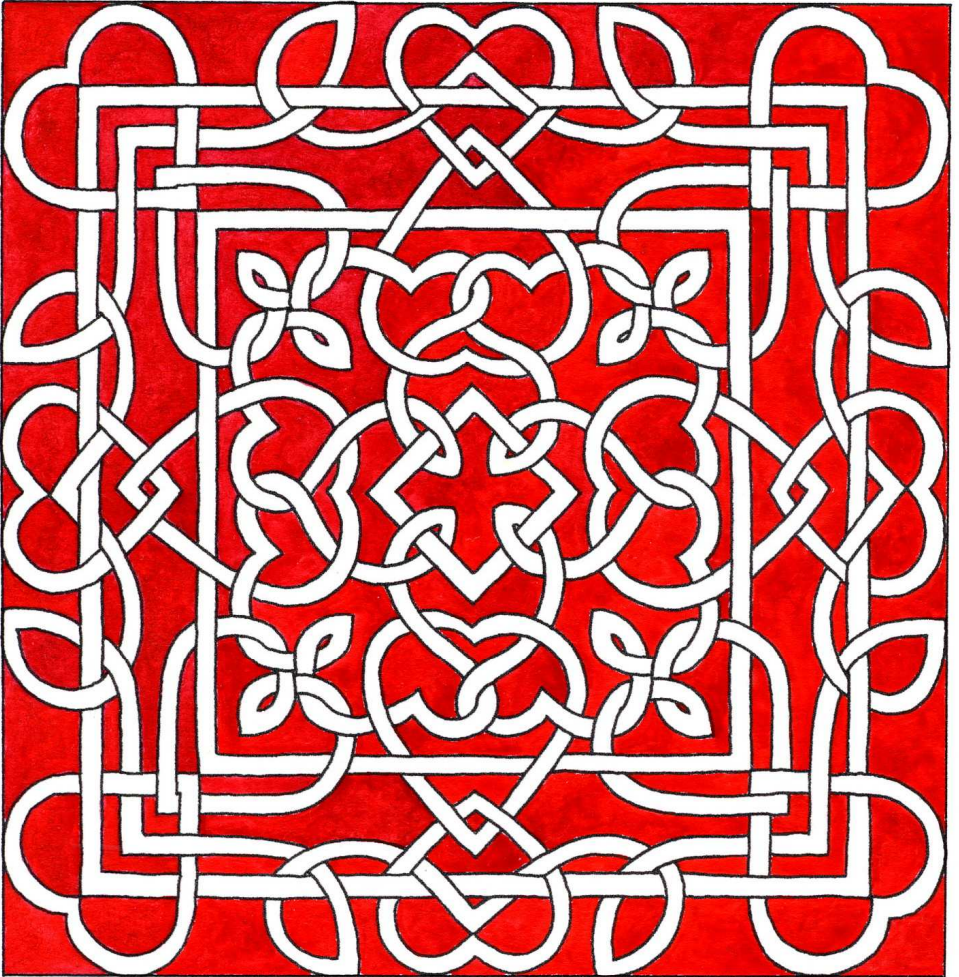


Our Parish

*Aston-Cum-Aughton
And Ulley*

February 2024



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On why rural church-goers like to freeze in church

The Rectory
St James the Least of All



My dear nephew Darren,

Winter certainly exposes the difference between those of you who live in cities and us rural folk. While you bask in your centrally heated flat, and complain about the half an inch of slush outside, we country folk wear overcoats in our houses, open all doors and windows to let the heat in and battle through snow drifts, measured in feet, to get the morning paper. Colonel Wainwright has acquired a new toy: a snow blower, of sufficient power that I believe it could clear the Antarctic. He kindly volunteered to clear the paths around the church. Working outwards from the church door, the path to the church soon became snow-free. Unfortunately, he only realised when his job was complete that the blown snow then formed a ten-foot drift under the lych gate.

Miss Margison, ever helpful in the worst sense of the word, decided to unfreeze the pipes in the church hall. A blow torch was not the ideal solution, although the resulting burst did make some rather attractive ice sculptures round the kitchen equipment. The village badminton team that uses the hall has now temporarily changed sport to ice hockey.

Inevitably, congregations have soared. There is nothing like adversity for making people want to prove they have the moral fibre to overcome it. Much satisfaction seems to be obtained on discovering who has not dared venture out, which is taken as judgement on their strength of character. The Prentices upstaged most people by arriving on a sleigh. Mr Prentice was warmly wrapped in a travelling rug, while his wife pulled it. As they both explained, they couldn't possibly let the pony work in such conditions.

What I momentarily thought was applause during my sermon was merely people keeping their hands warm and the hymns were drowned out by the stamping of feet. Our organist complained that the cold made his fingers so numb that he couldn't play properly – although I didn't notice that things were much different from normal.

No, my dear nephew, a few flakes of wet snow may close your car park for health and safety reasons, but we shall continue to triumph heroically over adversity. We return home after Matins, knowing we have proved our Christian commitment in being utterly uncomfortable.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



ALL SAINTS ASTON SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday 4 February

10:30am All Age Worship

Wednesday 7 February

9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 11 February

10:30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 14 February - ASH WEDNESDAY

9:30am Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

6:30pm Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

Sunday 18 February

10:30am Morning Worship

6:00pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday 21 February

9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 25 February

10:30am Holy Communion

6:00pm Sung Compline

Wednesday 28 February

9:30am Holy Communion



Holy Trinity Church Ulley Services in FEBRUARY

Sunday 4 February

9:00am Holy Communion

Sunday 11 February

10:30am Morning Worship

Sunday 18 February

10:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 25 February

10:30am Morning Worship

WHO TO CONTACT AT HOLY TRINITY

Church Wardens:

Gwyneth Hodgson: 0114 287 2150, Gwyneth.sampson@outlook.com

Sue Hubbard: 0114 287 3846, suehermec@hotmail.com

Weddings: If you want to talk about getting married, or to book your wedding please contact Sue Hubbard 0114 287 3846, suehermec@hotmail.com

Baptisms: If you would like to arrange a Baptism please E-mail our Baptism co-ordinator, Gloria Hope on Baptism@gloriahope.uk

Funerals: To arrange a Funeral please speak to

Gwyneth Hodgson: 0114 287 2150, Gwyneth.sampson@outlook.com



A Plea to the Community of All Saints Church

A warm welcome awaits you whenever you wish to visit our beautiful Grade 1 listed 12th Century Church. Here at All Saints Church Aston we have Services every Sunday and during the week for those people who wish to extend their faith, or cannot make our Sunday Services.

We welcome the residents of our Community. Many of our children visit and play under supervision at our various organised groups. Many of these groups and services are highlighted in this Monthly Parish Magazine.

Our church is run by the Parochial Church Council of All Saints Aston, which comprises elected members of the Congregation, Clergy and Licensed Lay members. The PCC meets every month to discuss our finances and how our money should be spent to benefit and improve our church.

These meetings cover matters from the day to day running of our church, to the safety of every person who enters our church, and the ongoing repairs and maintenance needed to ensure our church is fit for purpose.

We receive many wonderful testaments from visitors who visit our church; from those who have been to a Service, a Wedding, a Baptism, a Funeral or just decided to look around our Church when in the area or staying at Aston Hall Hotel.

Like many other organizations, our Church continues to have challenges to maintain the fabric of the building and the requirements for our Church and Community's future.



We are grateful to members of our congregation and friends who donate to assist in all that we try to do in the development and the continuing pathway work of our Church. These donations are made by a monthly bank direct debit, a weekly envelope scheme or by cash in the collection tray. All monies are used to help in the running of our church.

We hope you too would like to consider becoming part of the continuation of our work and the future of our Church by donating whatever you feel you can afford. Being a charity, if you are a tax payer each £1.00 donation you give attracts 25p from the government, which as you can understand is of great help to us.

If you would like further information on how you can help by making a monthly bank direct debit donation, by weekly envelope contribution, or a one off donation to our church we would be very grateful for you to contact our Gift Aid Secretary or our Admin Assistant.

Contact details as follows:

Gift Aid Secretary : **Glyn Sands**

Mobile phone 07835 240870 or glynsands@aol.com

Church AdminAssistant : **Hazel Winstanley**

by email at office@allsaintsaston.com or phone 07934 101538

About 700AD the people of Aston embraced Christianity and built a church: probably of wattle and wood. After the Norman Conquest in 1066 the Norman Lord erected a Hall and rebuilt the Church in Stone.

**Together with your assistance
we could help to ensure that
our Church will continue into the future**

ROTHERHAM FOODBANK

You can leave donations in the porch at All Saints from 9.30am to 10.30am on Wednesdays and from 9.15am to 10.30am on Sundays.

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Any donations you can make will be greatly appreciated.

Please speak to Pam Taylor 0114 287 9221 if you would like more information.



The gardener and the Vine



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS TO CARE FOR THE VINES



HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH BRANCH CAREFULLY..

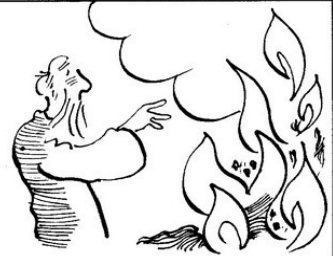
... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD FRUIT...



...OR NO FRUIT AT ALL...



...THEN THE GARDENER WOULD CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.



YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.



Winter Now

'Tis winter now; the fallen snow
Has left the heav'ns all coldly clear.
Through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow,
And all the earth lies dead and drear;

And yet God's love is not withdrawn:
His life within the keen air breathes;
His beauty paints the crimson dawn,
And clothes the boughs with glitt'ring wreaths.

And though abroad the sharp winds blow,
And skies are chill and frosts are keen,
Home closer draws her circle now,
And warmer glows her light within.

O God, Who gives the winter's cold,
As well as summer's joyous rays,
Us warmly in Thy love enfold,
And keep us through life's wint'ry days.

By *Samuel Longfellow (1819–1892)*
from *Hymns of the Spirit (1864)*



ALL SAINTS CHURCH ASTON

ROTA FOR SIDESPEOPLE

FEBRUARY 2024

4	ALL AGE WORSHIP	Glyn Sands & Pauline Martin
11	HOLY COMMUNION	Paul Moakes & Marjorie O'Neil
18	MORNING WORSHIP	Gill Ward & Pam Taylor
25	HOLY COMMUNION	Bill Mawson & Sheila Brown



WEDDINGS AT ASTON ALL SAINTS CHURCH



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We would love to be 'The perfect place for your perfect day'.



2nd February : Candlemas - the Presentation of Christ in the Temple



In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first ‘public appearance’. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child – to ‘present Him to the Lord’.

At the same time, she, as a new mother, was ‘purified’. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year’s supply of candles for the church on this day – hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon’s great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

NUNC DIMITTUS

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles
and to be the glory of thy people Israel

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.



14th February : The First Valentine's Day Card

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home with their wives, instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but who couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could – until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison awaiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14th February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.' So, the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

14th February : A Valentine's Day Mystery

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century – one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.



So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day -14th February, the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love – Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.



29th February : Oswald of Worcester The Saint for Leap Year



There is a saint for Leap Year. He is St Oswald of Worcester, who died on 29th February 992. His family story was extraordinary, and full of some surprising ‘leaps’, all by itself. It provides a tantalising glimpse of what happened to at least one of those pagan Viking warriors who settled in Anglo-Saxon Britain.

For Oswald’s great-uncle had come to England c 865, as part of the ‘Great Heathen Army’ of Viking invaders. But his son, Oswald’s uncle, Oda, forsook paganism, and not only converted to Christianity, but actually ended up as Archbishop of Canterbury. From there, Oda was in a position to help his nephew, Oswald, which he did.

Oda sent young Oswald to be educated at the abbey of Fleury, then a great centre of learning. There Oswald absorbed the Benedictine ideals which would guide his later life and work. Back in England, he became bishop of Worcester in 961, and with the support of King Edgar, eagerly joined in major reforms of the Anglo-Saxon church. In 972 Oswald was made Archbishop of York, and seems to have taken a great interest in renewing the church in the Danelaw. He founded Ramsey Abbey, which became one of the great Fenland monasteries.

Oswald was popular as an archbishop, and always washed the feet of the poor every Lent. On 29th February 992 he had just completed this service at Worcester when he collapsed and died. In later years, Worcester adopted both him and Wulfstan to be its two chief saints: they flank the tomb of King John, which is before the high altar in the cathedral.



Sitting and gazing at the world through the window.

Silence is broken with whistles of wind,
rustling through lifeless leaves.
As specks of rain trickle down panes of glass,
charcoal clouds add to the misery of memories,
slowly drifting away, like trees losing leaves.

Petals of roses, you have forgotten,
float along the garden path, you no longer know.
A garage full of tools collecting dust,
your cabriolet seems lost in stillness.
Like me, they are things you used to love,
but we are all obscure, as you seem secure in your bubble

I try to show you light, but all you see is darkness.
Forever we wander in the mist.

My affection for you still lingers, as I look at you,
but your blank expression looks through me.
My intimate aroma remains anonymous,
familiarity of my voice triggers no response.
I would give up everything for you to recognise me,
turn and look at me in your own special way,
embrace me in your arms, watch me whilst I sleep
but all your senses have become a stranger to me.

Helplessly I watch, you waste away,
as dementia gradually erases our memories.
The pain burns a hole in my heart,
which will never heal.

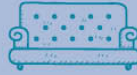
If only you would turn around one last time,
with an impression of love and smile at me,
so I could see that special glint in your eyes
and for you to tell me that you love me.

Written by The Silent One 19 January 2020



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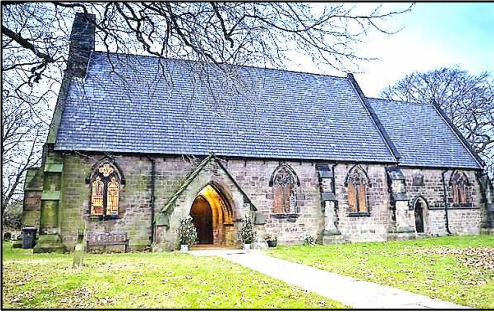
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THE PARISHES OF ALL SAINTS ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON AND HOLY TRINITY ULLEY



Holy Trinity Church, Ulley,
Photographed in 2009.

Reverend George Kirk came to Aston as Rector in June 1956 and retired on 31st July 1980. In 2009 Reverend Kirk wrote to the history group enclosing his memories of his time as Rector of All Saints Church. You will have read some of these memories in previous magazines and I now include more of his writings.

Ulley

Ulley became a separate parish in the 1860's, carved out of the parishes of Aston, Treeton and Whiston. The church, built by Lord Halifax for Anglo-Catholic worship, had been the focus for much Episcopal-legal attack around 1900. The church had suffered considerably from coal subsidence in 1974 and was abandoned for a time. The walls were covered in lime plaster in decay. The altar was on a platform just below the east window and approached by three steps, all in a state of rot and needing removal. A team of Kelham students came to tidy up the place. The stables of the old vicarage remained. There was an excellent new vicarage occupied by a retired priest. Singing, including Evensong, was excellent unaccompanied plainsong which George Kirk enjoyed after life at Kelham.

Hospitals

There were two in the parish, one at Aston Hall (renamed Aughton Court) and the other at Swallownest where the Rector was chaplain. Members of the congregation adopted a patient at Aughton Court and visited her. They formed the bulk of the congregation on Sunday mornings. When the morning congregation grew, we used the Hall's squash court as a crèche during Holy Communion.

Church

Aston Church was almost full for evensong. Aughton Mission had Sunday Evensong as well as Ulley. There was an excellent lay reader to make this possible. The Bishop had already ordained a new curate, a local man who had been a coal miner. We made a good team. The congregation had recently been considerably increased when the Yorkshire part of the National Coal Board had taken residence at Todwick Grange in 2009 and the huge United Coal and Chemicals Combine had moved its headquarters from Westmorland to Treeton Grange. The Anglicans made All Saints their place of worship.



Reading Room

In May 1958 the Trustees of Aston Reading Room asked the Rector and Churchwardens to take over responsibility for letting and maintaining the building. The Reading Room was to be made available for use to any local organisations. In October 1971 the Trustees of Aston Education Charity agreed to lease the Reading Room. (For several years this had been used as a place which could be hired by any persons or organisations within the parish on a non-profit making basis.) Because more and better facilities were now available in the parish, it was no longer economic to keep the Reading Room open. The Trustees therefore explored ways and means of relieving themselves of any financial burden involved in keeping it in reasonable repair – it having, in 1971, been scheduled as a building of special architectural or historical interest.

Aston National School

In 1960 it was agreed to purchase the old Aston National School (at the junction of Lodge Lane and Worksop Road) from the Sheffield Diocesan Education Council – as and when the premises are surrendered by the WRCC now occupying them. In July 1962 the WRCC surrendered the lease and at the request of the Diocesan Authorities we decided to allow Todwick Church School the use of it until such time as their new school could be built. One room was reserved to our use for parochial activities.

Swallownest Church Hall

In August 1961 Swallownest Church Hall (built in 1923) was sold for £5,000, the proceeds to be used for buying a Church Hall in Aston and, if possible, in Aughton.

St. Peter's Mission Church and Aughton Methodist Church

In March 1962 St. Peter's Mission Church was sold for industrial purposes and at the same time we purchased Aughton Methodist Church which was due for closure. About seven hundred pounds was spent in adapting the building for use as Aughton Church Centre. 1963 saw the development of work at the Aughton Church Centre, largely under the supervision of a Woman Worker. The following groups were in existence by the end of the year. Pensioners' Club with a membership of about 30. Aughton Youth Club with a membership of about 45. Unfortunately the Youth Club had to be suspended at the end of the year because of lack of adequate manpower to run it. In September we began an evening service on the first Sunday of each month. As many as 35 attended on each occasion. Unfortunately Aughton Church Centre was closed in 1974 due to uneconomic use and rising cost of oil heating. The building was put up for sale or lease and in August 1976 it was sold to John Hanstock.

Aston Church School

At the October 1966 meeting of the P.C.C. we discussed an offer from WRCC to allow the next Infant/Junior School in Aston to be a Church School. The proposed scheme was that the new school would replace the existing Old School (at present used by Todwick C of E School) and take in about 4 acres of glebe land. The estimated cost of the school would be £65,000 of which the Diocese would provide £6,500, and the parish £6,500.



Quite apart from the advantage of having again a Church School in the parish the scheme also relieves the parish of the burden of maintaining the Old School as a Church Centre or of trying to dispose of it. At the December meeting of the PCC we decided to accept.

The Church Commissioners gave approval in principle to the sale of glebe land. Building work began in 1970 and the school opened on 19th January 1971.

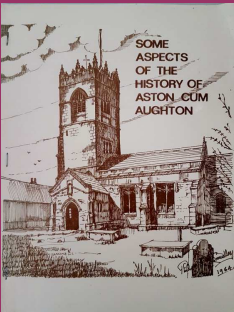
Ulley Old School

The lease of this building to four Trustees for use as a village hall ran out in October 1965. The PCC had considered buying the building and re-leasing to the Village Hall Committee. A grant of £200 from the Diocese and up to £50 from Aston PCC had been promised. However, owing to maintenance costs and difficulties of administering, it was agreed to allow the Parish Council to purchase – which it is keen to do. The church had verbal assurances that it would be allowed use of the Hall as in the past. Meanwhile, steps are being taken to bring the vicarage stable and coach house into decent repair should a building be required when the population expands.

Glebe House

In August 1968, Glebe House (ex School House for the old National School) was converted into an upper flat and lower hall.

Ann Key Aston-cum-Aughton History Group



Aston-cum-Aughton History Group

meet in the Reading Room on
1st & 3rd Mondays of each month

7:00pm to 9:00pm.

Contact **Jeff Blades 0114 287 2102**
Brian Mears 0114 287 7751
Ann Key 0114 287 2610

ALL SAINTS CHURCH ASTON

CHORAL EVENSONG

6:00pm SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2024

SUNG COMPLINE

6:00pm SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2024



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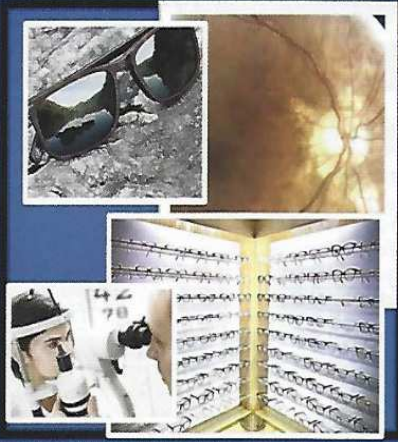
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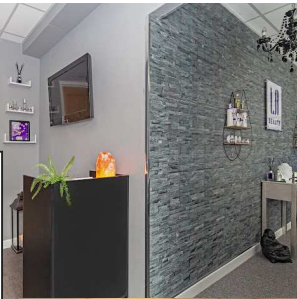
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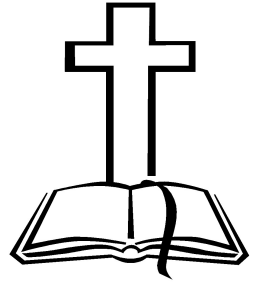


From the Registers

Baptisms :

Funerals :

Vera Thickitt
Eileen Royston
Bernadette Towns



WHO TO CONTACT AT ALL SAINTS

If you want to talk about getting married,
or book your wedding

please telephone **07934 101538**

E-Mail : **weddings.astonallsaints@gmail.com**

If you would like to arrange a Baptism
please E-mail our Baptism co-ordinator
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THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS ASTON CUM AUGHTON

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	Parish Communion (2nd Sunday and 4th Sunday)	10:30am
	Morning Worship (3rd Sunday)	10:30am
	When there is a 5th Sunday To Be Arranged	10:30am
	Evensong (2nd Sunday)	6.00pm
	Compline (4th Sunday)	6:00pm
WEDNESDAYS:	Holy Communion	9.30am

PARISH CHURCH OF HOLY TRINITY ULLEY

SUNDAYS:	Holy Communion (1st Sunday)	9:00am
	Morning Worship (2nd Sunday & 4th Sunday)	10.30am
	Holy Communion (3rd Sunday)	10.30am

TEAM STAFF

LAY MINISTER:	Peter Hutchinson 17 Front Street, Treeton S60 5QP	0114 4425 340
LAY READERS:	Gwyneth Hodgson	0114 287 2150
	Hanbury House, Main Street, Ulley, Sheffield S26 3YD	
CHILDREN'S MINISTER & WORSHIP LEADER:	Beth Henshaw	07813 789255
WARDENS:	Chris Ward (All Saints)	07949 186202
	Val Dixon (All Saints)	0114 287 3214
	Sue Hubbard (Holy Trinity)	0114 287 3846
	Gwyneth Hodgson (Holy Trinity)	0114 287 2150
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:	Louise Cooper	07581 421976
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:	Elliott Walker	07954 685831
MAGAZINE	Peter Maxted <i>peter@themax2020.co.uk</i>	0114 287 5477
WEDDINGS	Gill Ward <i>weddings.astonallsaints@gmail.com</i>	



Groups and Societies

YAS - Youth Club (11-16 years)

*Meets monthly in the Narthex of All Saints Church:
6 to 8pm. Silly games, discussion, food and prayer.*



Aston & District Footpath Walkers Association

*Local friendly walking every Thursday. Contact Mel Partridge on 07731 773832,
or E-Mail melpartridge1943@gmail.com.*

Aston Ladies Circle

*Meetings are at 7.15pm on Tuesday evenings in the Parish Hall or 'OUT' on trips.
Contact Audrey Jones 0114 287 5518*

Aston-cum-Aughton History Group

*Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, 7 - 9pm, William Layne
Reading Room, Aughton Lane, Aston. Visitors welcome.*

Aston-cum-Aughton Ladies Group

*Meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month at 1.45pm in the Narthex at All
Saints Church.*

Contact : Val on 0114 287 3214

Chatterbox Activity Group

for pensioners, carers and over 55's.

*Tuesdays 10am to 12:30 @ Central Methodist Church Hall, Lodge Lane, Aston.
Members £3.00. Board Games, Outings and other Events.*

Contact Janet on 07989 370593

Dinnington & District Horticultural Society

*Evening talks in Anston Parish Hall, Ryton Road,
North Anston S25 4DL*

at 7.30pm. Non members £2.50.

For more details contact : 01909 567326.



Friends of Ulley Country Park

Sunday Café: 11 am to 3 pm. Homemade refreshments including soup, crusty bread, coffee, tea, fruit cordials, cakes and scones. We hope to host a special event at each Café day. Details on the website.

5th Age (charity number 1068378)

This social group meets every Tuesday, 2 - 4pm at Heighton View Community Centre (off Turnshaw Avenue in Aughton).

Open to anyone over 55. Just drop in: ask for Julia. Membership free.

Contact : enquire5thage@outlook.com

Prospects

An inclusive service with those with learning difficulties. All welcome!

We learn stories from the Bible, (sometimes acted out); sing songs together in worship and celebration and end with cake.

Swallownest Baptist Church 3rd Sunday of each month at 3pm.

*Contacts : **Malcolm 07720 776081** or **Elizabeth 07594 410801***

Little Angels

Playgroup for babies and pre-school children at The Narthex, All Saints Church, Aston

Every Monday 9.30 - 11.30am in Term-time

Admission FREE, but donations welcome

*Contact : **Gloria Hope 07553 504806** or gloria@gloriahope.uk*



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