Our Parish Aston-Cum-Aughton And Ulley

April 2024



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On why a Church should always resist Change

The Rectory St James the Least of All

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My dear nephew Darren,

I am not the least surprised you have got yourself into trouble; innovation is never to be encouraged. New ideas tend to cause revolutions. The move from incandescent lightbulbs to energy saving ones may ultimately change the Church of England.

Change is something everyone claims to be in favour of – provided it has no measurable effect on their own lives. I remember as a young curate once suggesting that at the Harvest Supper, tables might be enlarged so that eight people could sit together rather than the traditional six, thus helping more people get to know one another. The response would have been similar if I had suggested we travel to London to murder the Prime Minister. I was firmly told that tables for six had been perfectly adequate for parishioners in Queen Victoria's day. For the rest of my curacy, I was regarded as a revolutionary, to be watched carefully.

So, at your last visit to our church, to suggest that our 11am Mattins might be moved to 10.30am, in order to encourage those who wanted to have more of the day free to themselves, certainly lobbed a hand grenade among the post-Service coffee cups. The only person who was mildly in favour was Colonel Wainwright, who quickly realised that it would give him an extra half-hour at the gin and tonics before lunch.

Should you ever feel that people lack imagination, you should watch them in action when they find reasons for resisting an unwelcome suggestion. One said that the time couldn't be moved, since it would then be too early for the local bus – omitting to mention that none of our congregation travel to church by bus and that the service doesn't run on Sundays anyway. Another pointed out that it would confuse those who didn't attend church – not explaining why if they never attended, it mattered what time the Service was. A third, rather touchingly mentioned that it wouldn't give the rector time to enjoy his breakfast after the rigours of the 8am Service.

Your suggestion did, however, serve one useful purpose; it brought our congregation together in united opposition. They may not necessarily always know what they are for, but they certainly know what they are against. For that, I thank you.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



ALL SAINTS ASTON SERVICES IN APRIL 2024

Wednesday 3 April

9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 7 April

10:30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 10 April

9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 14 April

10:30am All Age Worship

Wednesday 17 April

9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 21 April

10:30am Holy Communion 6:00pm Sung Compline

Wednesday 24 April

9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 28 April

10:30am Holy Communion6:00pm BCP Evensong





Holy Trinity Church Ulley Services in APRIL

Sunday 7 April 9:00am Holy Communion

Sunday 14 April 10:30am Morning Worship

Sunday 21 April 10:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 28 April

10:30am Holy Communion

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:

xtx

Gift Aid Secretary : **Glyn Sands** Mobile phone 07835 240870 or <u>glynsands@aol.com</u>

Church AdminAssistant : **Hazel Winstanley** by email at <u>office@allsaintsaston.com</u> 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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There will come soft Rain

There will come soft rain and the smell of the ground, And swallows circling with their shimmering sound;

> And frogs in the pools singing at night, And wild plum trees in tremulous white;

Robins will wear their feathery fire, Whistling their whims on a low fence-wire;

And not one will know of the war, not one Will care at last when it is done.

Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree, If mankind perished utterly;

And Spring herself, when she woke at dawn Would scarcely know that we were gone.

> By Sara Teasdale January 2003

ALL SAINTS CHURCH ASTON

ROTA FOR SIDESPEOPLE

APRIL 2024

- 7 HOLY COMMUNION
- 14 ALL AGE WORSHP
- 21 HOLY COMMUNION
- 28 HOLY COMMUNION

Gill Ward & Glyn Sands Paul Moakes & Marjorie O'Neil Bill Mawson & Pauline Martin Sheila Brown & Ann Mason



WEDDINGS AT ASTON ALL SAINTS CHURCH



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Aston All Saints is a wonderful setting for your wedding and of course it is ideally situated if you are planning to hold your reception at the outstanding Aston Hall Hotel which is just a two minute walk away.

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



Rev Harry Steele: Chaplin to the Bishop of Sheffield

I am writing to introduce myself to the people of the parish of Aston. You may be wondering why I am introducing myself; you may also be wondering what a Chaplain to a Bishop is and what they might do! Those two questions are related and I shall take them in order

As Chaplain to the Bishop of Sheffield and a member of the Bishop's Senior Staff team I was recently asked if I would consider speaking to the PCC of the parish of Aston and offering them my services. In my role I don't have a parish church to look after- that means each Sunday morning I am covering services in churches across the Diocese of Sheffield. The question was raised as to whether it might be better for me, rather than spreading myself thinly across the whole of the diocese, to be 'placed' with one parish for a longer period of time – perhaps six months if all parties were in agreement. One of the first parishes that was suggested was Aston (perhaps, as one member of the PCC commented, because the suggestions of possible places were offered in alphabetical order!).

So here I am – beginning after Easter Sunday I will be leading worship and preaching at Aston most Sundays. I will be working with colleagues in the Deanery – particularly the Area Dean Vicky Camber - and meeting with the PCC as often as is possible. I am *not* to be the new vicar of Aston. I am not able to offer lots of time and attention midweek as I do have a very full and busy 'day job'. But I do hope to get to know the parish, to encourage and be encouraged, to minister and to discern with you what God might be calling All Saints to in the near future.

About the day job: I work with the Bishop of Sheffield at the Bishop's offices in Ranmoor, Sheffield (I live in Crookes with my wife Zoey and my teenage boys, Ezra and Jonas). As well as praying with and for the Bishop, I support Bishops Pete and Sophie in matters of strategic development in the mission of the diocese. It is a full job, but one that I hope will sit well with being part of All Saints in this way for the next six months or so. I look forward to meeting you all soon.

23rd April : St George of the Golden Legend



The Saint of an English Army before he was Patron Saint of England, St George may have been a soldier, but he was no Englishman. Some stories say that he was an officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror, and was martyred at Lydda in Palestine about the year 300 AD – supposedly 23rd April. Over the years St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages, of whom remarkable deeds were reported.

In the Golden Legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine gave St George a handsome write-up. The story runs thus:

One day, St George rode up to the heathen city of Sylene in Lybia, where he found the citizens in great distress. A neighbouring dragon had forced them to surrender two sheep each day for its dinner, and when the sheep gave out, two of their children; and now they were about to sacrifice the King's daughter, dressed as if for her wedding. St George encountered the little party by a stagnant lake, where the dragon lived, and persuaded the sobbing Princess to tell him why she was so miserable. At that moment the dragon appeared, looking inexpressibly revolting. St George charged forwards and drove his spear into the dragon's gaping mouth. To everyone's amazement, he tumbled the monster over and over.

Then St George borrowed the Princess's girdle, tied it round the dragon's neck, and persuaded her to lead it back to Sylene herself. The sight of her approaching with the befuddled dragon on its makeshift lead emptied the town. When the inhabitants timidly crept back, St George promised to behead the dragon if they would all believe in Jesus Christ and be baptised.

It was a most effective form of evangelism, for everybody said 'yes' at once. So, 15,000 people were baptised, and four carts were commissioned to remove the dragon's body.

St George thus became a symbol of the war against evil, and he is usually portrayed trampling the dragon of sin under his horse's hoofs. The Crusaders had a vision of him helping them against the Saracens at Antioch, during the first Crusade, and so brought the story of St George back with them from Palestine. Presently England put herself under the protection of the Saint. His day was declared a holiday in 1222. A red cross on a white field is the flag of St George.

29th April : Catherine of Siena



Catherine of Siena, who was born 1347, should be the patron saint of anyone who has grown up in a large family, and mastered the two vital skills for survival: how to stand up for yourself, and how to make peace with others.

Catherine had siblings! At least 19 of them, and Catherine was the youngest. Her father was a Sienese dyer, and wanted her to marry, but Catherine did not. She became a nun instead, a member of the Dominican Third Order.

Perhaps after sharing a house with at least 22 people, Catherine wanted some peace and quiet: in any case she spent six years in solitude, giving herself to prayer and penance. Then she moved back into the world, through nursing the local sick people, and then beginning to travel. Catherine travelled frequently, with a number of her 'disciples' – a mix of Dominicans and Augustinians, and even an English Friar. Wherever they went, people listened to their proclamation of the total love of God through Jesus Christ, and their calls to reform and repent. There were some spectacular conversions.

Catherine could not write, but soon someone else was taking down her 'Dialogue' by dictation – it ran to 383 letters. Catherine's thoughts centred on Christ crucified, the supreme sign of God's love for man. The quality of these letters made them widely read for years to come.

A godly woman who could lead and teach! Soon new opportunities presented themselves: in the last five years of her life, Catherine found herself involved in the politics of both State and Church. This included trying to make peace during the Great Schism in the Church after 1378, when Pope Gregory XI died, and two new popes – bitter rivals – claimed the papacy. Catherine wore herself out in trying to promote peace, had a stroke on 21 April 1380, and died eight days later. (A warning to ecumenists everywhere?!)

Catherine soon became Siena's principal saint, loved for her writings and her example of godliness and self-sacrificing love. Her house and an early portrait survive at Siena, and her memory lives on today: she was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1970, nearly 600 years after her death.

Home-Thoughts, from Abroad

Oh, to be in England Now that April's there, And whoever wakes in England Sees, some morning, unaware, That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf, While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough In England now!

And after April, when May follows, And the whitethroat builds, and all the swallows! Hark, where my blossomed pear-tree in the hedge Leans to the field and scatters on the clover Blossoms and dewdrops at the bent spray's edge. That's the wise thrush; he sings each song twice over, Lest you should think he never could recapture The first fine careless rapture! And though the fields look rough with hoary dew, All will be gay when noontide wakes anew The buttercups, the little children's dower Far brighter than this gaudy melon-flower!

By Robert Browning

Robert Browning (1812 - 1889) was an English poet and playwright. Born to supportive, educated parents with a keen appreciation for the arts, he was a bright and eager student who loved and wrote poetry before ever reaching his teens. Recognition and publication were a long time in coming; though Robert's dramatic monologues are today considered brilliant and he is recognized as one of the 19th century's most prominent poets, he endured much criticism during his lifetime. He fell in love with fellow poet Elizabeth Barrett and, against her father's wishes, they eloped to Italy and remained there until Elizabeth's death.



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LOOKING AFTER THE POOR IN ASTON-CUM-AUGHTON

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The Poor House by the roadside at the top of Millstone Hill (Worksop Road), Swallownest, near where currently the funeral parlour, launderette and fishing tackle shop stand. At the front of the house, beneath the upper windows was a stone plaque, carved with the words "Aston Poor House. Erected in the year 1817. John Earnshaw and John Unwin, Overseers". After closure, it was converted into three cottages. They were demolished in 1967.

Prior to the 1530s many of the poor and sick were taken care of by religious orders in monasteries around the country. When King Henry VIII destroyed all the monasteries in the 1530s and confiscated all their lands and buildings, there were no longer any monks or nuns to look after the poor and sick. This eventually led to the threat of civil disorder and an Act of Elizabethan Poor Law was passed through Parliament in1563 where different types of poor people were categorised and the treatment that they might receive was described. The "Deserving Poor" were the old, the young and the sick who should receive help and were provided with "outdoor relief" in the form of clothes, food or money. The "Deserving Unemployed" were those willing and able to work but unable to find employment. They were provided with "indoor relief" by being cared for in alms houses, orphanages and workhouses. The sick were cared for in hospitals and apprenticeships were arranged for the young. The "Undeserving Poor" were those who turned to a life of crime or became beggars. The dishonest men were criminals who turned to various forms of theft. The beggars were referred to as "Idle Beggars" or "Poor Beggars".

Another Poor Law Act was passed in 1597 and a new position of Overseer of the Poor was created in every village in England. He was responsible for calculating the amount of "Poor Rate" required for the parish, for collecting the Poor Rate from property owners and for dispensing money, clothes and food to the poor.

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The 1601 Poor Law Act made some changes to the first Act and included the levying of a compulsory poor rate on every parish, which was paid by property owners. The Overseer was responsible for collecting this levy and using the money to provide working materials and work or apprenticeships for children who were orphaned or whose parents could not support them. They also offered relief to the "Deserving Poor". The office of Overseer of the Poor was an elected office and the "Poor Books" kept by the Overseers in Aston detail the day-to-day operation of the system of looking after the poor of the parish.

A Workhouse or Poor House was built in Aston and it is first recorded in the Overseers of the Poor Book in 1780 when thatch was purchased for the Poor House, but unfortunately there is no mention of when it was built or where it was situated. We know it was on land owned by Harry Verelst because it is recorded that the parish paid him ground rent in 1783. Other entries show payments by the Overseer of the Poor to J. Bradley for jobbing work at the Workhouse and Mr Memmott, shoemaker for mending inmates' shoes. A widow Smith was paid 4s. 6d. for cleaning the Workhouse and the Overseer paid 8s/9d for a load of coals and 6s for a load of potatoes.

We have copies of these accounts from 1761 to 1836 and they record how the parish looked after their poor. As well as the Poor House, many of the poor, sick and disabled were cared for in their own homes, and women, usually widows, were paid to look after them. Payments were also made to villagers for many reasons, for example "he or she being ill", "having no work", "for relief", "for making up wages" as well as payments in kind for clothes, shoes, coal, repairs to cottages etc.

Work began on building a Poor House in Swallownest in 1817 on land at the top of Millstone Hill (Worksop Road) and a record of the work was kept in the book of the Overseer of the Poor.

On the 10th January, R Harris and S Hancock were paid £1/1s/1d. to dig the foundations and building took place during the early part of that year and cost £304/9s/2³/₄d (£304.50p). As well as this there were extra costs for delivering materials, well sinking, manure and seeds for the garden. Furniture cost £24/18s/9d, 67 yards of linen at £2/10s0d, blankets and rugs £2/19s/5d. Pots and Pans £13/10s/3d, a bed 3s, chairs 7s/6d. The Parish received £200 from Mrs Vesey towards the cost of the Poor House and paid her £10 interest yearly.

The entries of cash disbursed by the Overseer of the Poor ended on the 18th August 1837 when it is noted in the book "This Parish joins the Rotherham Union". The law had changed again in 1834 with the Poor Law Amendment Act. This act grouped parishes into unions, jointly responsible for the administration of poor relief in their areas and each governed by a Board of Guardians. The first meeting of the Guardians of the Rotherham Union was held at the Court House in Rotherham on Monday 3rd July 1837. The Chairman of the Board was Earl Fitzwilliam. Francis Moss represented Aston and William Moss represented Ulley. At that meeting it was resolved that a workhouse for the accommodation of 350 individuals be built within the Union.

Aston became part of the Beighton district which included Beighton, Wales-in-Treeton, Aston, Ulley, Brampton-en-le-Morthen, Treeton, Catcliffe and Orgreave. The parish officers in these districts were informed that the Relieving Officer, Ralph Linfield, would supersede them in their duties of relieving the outdoor paupers from and after Saturday 19th August 1837. It was decided that the Relieving Officer would pay the poor of Aston at the cottage of Elizabeth Johnson and she would be paid sixpence a week for her trouble. Handbills were printed and posted to notify the times and places that the Receiving Officer would be attending at Aston.

At the Guardians meeting on 23^{rd} October 1837 the Workhouse Committee reported that the Feoffees of the Town of Rotherham had made them an offer of 5 acres of land at £1,000. The Workhouse was built in 1838 on Alma Road and was in existence until 1929 after which it became the Rotherham Public Assistance Institution, later known as The Mount. The Infirmary of the Workhouse became Moorgate General Hospital, which closed in 1980.

Ann Key Aston-cum-Aughton History Group

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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

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SUNG COMPLINE 6:00pm SUNDAY 21 APRIL 2024

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WEDNESDAYS:	Holy Communic	9.30am		
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Groups and Societies

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**

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.

Chatterbox Activity Group

for pensioners, carers and over 55's. *Tuesdays 10am to 12:30 at Central Methodist Church Hall, Lodge Lane, Aston.*

Members £3.00. Board Games, Outings and other Events. **Contact Janet on 07989 370593**



<u>*</u>†*

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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