Our Parish Aston-Cum-Aughton





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On the importance of NOT keeping accurate Minutes

The Rectory St James the Least of All

My dear nephew Darren,



Since you were the one to ask this parishioner of yours to act as PCC secretary, you have no reason to complain about the minutes of meetings she produces. You should never let anyone act as a secretary unless they cannot speak English or are hard of hearing, and preferably, both. The more significant the committee and the more contentious the issues being debated, the more you should nobly put yourself forward both to chair the meeting and take the minutes. In the majority of cases, that will spare the other members that awkward moment when you ask for a volunteer, and they all feel the sudden need to stare at their feet.

If you act as secretary, then you can be certain that accounts of what took place will only be what you had wanted to happen and that the decisions taken will be what you had already decided before discussions started. Any inconvenient observations from other committee members can be omitted entirely.

Admittedly, the more observant may notice that your accounts of the meeting may not wholly agree with their recollections, but the skill of being a secretary is not to produce the minutes of the previous meeting until the day before the next one. This will mean that the great majority will have long forgotten what actually did happen two months previously, and that many will not have had the time to read them anyway and will avoid having to admit that fact by passing them.

Only the deeply committed will want to pursue apparent discrepancies. In that case, confess to the meeting that your hand-written notes were accidentally left on a bus and so you can no longer check the accuracy of what you have written. As a way of appearing helpful, you could even give the person challenging you the bus route number and time of day you travelled. Further challenges will rally the rest of the committee to your side, and soon someone will suggest you proceed to the next item on the agenda. Since you are also the chairman, you naturally bow to their request.

Just in the way that church rotas bear no resemblance to the people who actually turn up to do the jobs, minutes of meetings need not bear too much resemblance to what actually happened, especially if what did happen is inconvenient for you.

After all, democracy is all very well – provided a benign dictator is in overall control.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

ALL SAINTS ASTON SERVICES IN JANUARY 2025

Wednesday 1 January

9:30am No Holy Communion

Sunday 5 January - EPIPHANY

10:30am All Age Service6:00pm EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

Wednesday 8 January

9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 12 January

10:30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 15 January

9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 19 January

10:30am Holy Communion 6:00pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday 22 January

9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 26 January

10:30am Holy Communion6:00pm Holocaust Memorial Day Service

Wednesday 29 January

9:30am Holy Communion



Holy Trinity Church Ulley Services in January

Sunday 5 January 9:00am Holy Communion

Sunday 12 January 10:30am Holy Communion at St Peter & St Paul Church Todwick

> Sunday 19 January 10:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 26 January 10:30am Morning Worship

WHO TO CONTACT AT HOLY TRINITY

Church Wardens:

Charlotte Darling: 07957 627402 charlottedarling@live.co.uk Sue Hubbard: 07793 046238 suehermec@hotmail.com

Weddings: If you want to talk about getting married, or to book your wedding please contact Sue Hubbard 07793 046238 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 contact Sue Hubbard 0114 287 3846, suehermec@hotmail.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 : **Carl Spencer** Mobile phone 07450 648964 or carl_spencer@sky.com

Church Admin : 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

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



Day & Night Blessing

May God's blessing be yours, And good be it sent;

May Christ's blessing be yours, And good be it meant;

Spirit's blessing be yours, For life's good intent,

Day arising indoors, Night lying down spent.

Ancient Celtic Prayer

ALL SAINTS CHURCH ASTON

ROTA FOR SIDESPEOPLE

JANUARY 2025

- 5 ALL AGE WORSHIP
- 12 HOLY COMMUNION
- 19 HOLY COMMUNION
- 26 HOLY COMMUNION

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



WEDDINGS AT ASTON ALL SAINTS CHURCH



Are you planning your wedding? Why not come and see our beautiful 12th century church and have a chat with our wedding team to see if we can help you have a truly memorable day.

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.

Did you know that you can now be married in our church even if you don't live in this parish?

If you would like to come and have a look around please get in touch with our wedding team by:

E-mail weddings.astonallsaints@gmail.com or Phone 07934 101538

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

1st January : The Naming of Jesus

 x^{\pm}

Matthew and Luke tell how the angel instructed that Mary's baby was to be named Jesus – a common name meaning 'saviour'. The Church recalls the naming of Jesus on 1st January – eight days after 25th December (by the Jewish way of reckoning days). In Jewish tradition, the male babies were circumcised and named on their eighth day of life.

For early Christians, the name of Jesus held a special significance. In Jewish tradition, names expressed aspects of personality. Jesus' name permeated His ministry, and it does so today: we are baptised in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38), we are justified through the name of Jesus (1 Cor 6:11); and God the Father has given Jesus a name above all others (Phil 2:9). All Christian prayer is through 'Jesus Christ our Lord', and it is 'at the name of Jesus' that one day every knee shall bow.



The name Jesus is a transliteration of a name that occurs in several languages. It is of Hebrew origin, 'Yehosua', or Joshua. There is also the Hebrew-Aramaic form, 'Yesua'. In Greek, it became 'In $\sigma o \tilde{v}$ c' (Iēsoûs), and in Latin it became 'Iesus'.

The meaning of the name is 'Yahweh delivers' or 'Yahweh rescues', or 'Yahweh is salvation'. No wonder the angel Gabriel in Luke (1:26-33) told Mary to name her baby Jesus: "because He will save His people from their sins."

6th January : What about the Gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?

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The story of the coming of the Magi grew in the telling. By the 6th century they had acquired names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus.

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? While we cannot know for sure what was in the minds of first century Magi, one Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation as to the significance of their gifts. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote his much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial. If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people.

The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They travelled for months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They worshipped Him through faith in God's promises about Him. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi's eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future.

Compare that with the High Priest and religious leaders whom the Wise Men saw in Jerusalem when they first arrived. These head priests knew all about the prophecies of their own coming Messiah, but NOT ONE Jewish religious leader travelled to look for Him in Bethlehem. And it is only six miles down the road!



25th January : St Paul, the first Christian Intellectual

This month, on 25th January, the Church celebrates probably the most famous conversion of all. At least, what happened to a young man called Saul on the road to Damascus has become a byword for all instant conversions – what is known as a 'damascene' moment. Saul was a devout Jew, a Pharisee, a student of Gamaliel and a fierce critic of the followers of Jesus, then a very new sect on the religious scene.

On his way to Damascus to start a purge of Christians in that city, he was blinded by a bright light and heard a voice saying, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' He asked the identity of the voice, and was told: 'Jesus, whom you are persecuting'. Stunned by the



experience, he followed further instructions which led him to a Christian man in Damascus, who prayed with him. As he did, Saul's sight was restored.

The experience convinced Paul that Jesus – crucified in Jerusalem four or five years earlier – was in fact the Messiah and had risen from the dead. After a period of instruction, Saul was baptised and took the name Paul. At first, some Christians were wary about the reality of his conversion, but over a period of time he was accepted and indeed eventually recognised as an 'apostle', a 'special messenger' of Jesus Christ.

His intellectual stature and leadership gifts quickly marked him out, and within a few years he became a leading figure in the emerging Christian Church, preaching and founding churches all over the Middle East, largely of Gentile converts. He was eventually martyred in Rome, probably in 65AD.

Paul was the first intellectual of the Christian Church, the man who was able to set the events of the life and teaching of Jesus, and especially His death and resurrection, into a coherent theology, with its roots very clearly in the Jewish faith of his own upbringing.

Many people think of Paul as a rather negative, narrow misogynist, but even a quick reading of his letters actually reveals a person of great warmth, who evoked enormous affection and devotion from others. 'You would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me!' he writes to the Christians at Galatia. As for the charge hat Paul disliked women, even a quick read of his letters will reveal how large a role women played in his churches. In terms of the first century, St Paul was a dangerous liberal! So, all in all, the amazing Paul of Tarsus deserves a bit of celebrating on 25th January.

FEAR

It is said that before entering the sea a river trembles with fear.

She looks back at the path she has travelled, from the peaks of the mountains, the long winding road crossing forests and villages.

And in front of her, she sees an ocean so vast, that to enter there seems nothing more than to disappear forever.

> But there is no other way. The river can not go back.

Nobody can go back. To go back is impossible in existence.

The river needs to take the risk of entering the ocean because only then will fear disappear, because that's where the river will know it's not about disappearing into the ocean, but of becoming the ocean.

By Kahlil Gibran 1883 - 1931





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THE FAMILIES WHO HELD THE MANOR OF ASTON FROM 1066 - 1948

From the time of the Conquest until 1928 Aston was largely owned by four knightly or gentry families who had possession over many generations; the de Warennes from 1066, the Meltons from 1332, the Darcys from 1521 and the Verelsts from 1774. Then from 1928 - 1948 the Matthews. Beginning with the de Warennes I will include an article each month about each of these families.

HOLDERNESS



Robert D'Arcy, 4th Earl of Holderness

Thomas D'Arcy, who was beheaded, had two sons, George and Arthur. George married Dorothy the daughter of Sir John Melton of Aston. Their descendants lived at Aston until John Lord D'Arcy died in 1635, without issue. After his death, his wife Elizabeth married Sir Francis Fane. Elizabeth died in 1669 and Sir Francis continued to live at Aston until his death in 1680.

The estates then passed to Conyers D'Arcy, a descendant of Thomas D'Arcy's son Arthur who was then 82 years old. In 1594 he had married Dorothy Bellasis and they had seven sons and nine daughters. A

Royalist at the outbreak of the Civil War, he was a Colonel of a Regiment of Foot, raised at Hornby near Bedale, Yorkshire. He led the regiment at the storming of Burton-on-Trent in 1643, where he was severely wounded and crippled. The Regiment was then commanded by his brother Marmaduke. From 1660-1671 he was Constable of Middleham Castle and from 1661-1680 he was summoned to Parliament as Lord D'Arcy of Knayth and was elevated to the Earldom of Holdernesse in 1682. Despite being severely wounded, he lived to 91, died at Hornby in 1689 and was buried there with his wife.

He was succeeded by his son Conyers D'Arcy, 2nd Earl of Holderness. He was an ardent Royalist in the Civil War and was Captain in Prince Rupert's Horse. He married four times. His first wife was Catherine Fane, daughter of Francis Fane, Earl of Westmorland. She was the sister of Sir Francis Fane of Aston, who had married Elizabeth West, fourth wife and widow of John Lord D'Arcy of Aston.

His second wife was Frances Howard, daughter of Thomas Howard, Earl of Berkshire and Elizabeth Cecil, daughter of William Cecil, Earl of Exeter. So, a very well-connected lady. She died at Hornby and has a fine memorial in St. Mary's Church there. His third wife was Frances Seymour, widow of the Earl of Southampton and daughter of William Seymour, 2nd Duke of Somerset. Frances was buried in Westminster Abbey.

His fourth wife was Elizabeth Freschville, daughter of John Lord Freschville of Staveley. She was also niece of Rosamund, first wife of John Lord D'Arcy of Aston. After the death of Francis Fane in 1680 Conyers lived his later years in Aston, his fourth wife being from Staveley.

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He was a great benefactor to Aston Church and gave a silver chalice with patten, a rich satin cloth and gold embroidered cushion for the pulpit, a cloth and cushion for the communion table, two prayer books, a great iron-bound chest and a black hearse-cloth. He also gave money annually for distribution to the poor. He died in Aston in 1692 and was buried at Hornby. His last wife, who had died two years earlier, was buried at Staveley.

His son John D'Arcy by his second wife, was baptised at Hornby in 1659. He took part in the "Glorious Revolution" plot of 1688 which changed the face of British history. The plot was to bring William of Orange over from Holland to preserve the Protestant faith and replace the Catholic King James. There were four ringleaders who met at the Cock and Pynot Inn at Whittington, Chesterfield, now open as a museum and called Revolution House.

They were Colonel John D'Arcy, William Cavendish, 4th Earl of Devonshire, who later became the 1st Duke of Devonshire; Thomas Osborne, the Earl of Danby, who later became the 1st Duke of Leeds and Henry Booth, Lord Delamere, later the Earl of Warrington. The outcome was that William landed in England in November 1688 and James II fled to France. William and his wife Mary, eldest daughter of King James II, became King and Queen of England in February 1689. Unfortunately, John D'Arcy did not live to see the events as he died of "ye squinsey at London" and was buried in Westminster Abbey. Had he lived he might have been awarded with a Dukedom.

John's son Robert inherited on the death of his grandfather and became 7th Lord Conyers and 3rd Earl of Holderness. Like his predecessors he was prominent in Yorkshire, being Constable of Middleham Castle and Lord Lieutenant of the North Riding. He was also prominent in London, being First Lord of Trade and Plantations and Lord of the Bedchamber to King George I.

During his time there was a serious fire that damaged Aston Hall but it was in the time of his son Robert, the fourth Earl of Holderness that the hall was destroyed and a new hall built in 1772. The only survivor was the armorial stained glass from the old hall, bearing D'Arcy shields of arms and is now the east window in the south aisle of Aston Church.

Robert the 4th Earl and only surviving son, was educated by his uncle Sir Conyers D'Arcy. Robert's portrait is exhibited at Temple Newsam, near Leeds, a former residence of his ancestors. He married in November 1842 at The Hague, Mary daughter of Francis Doublet of Groeneveld, Holland. They had two sons, both dying in infancy and a daughter Amelia.

A courtier in the reign of George II, Robert was one of the richest men in the country. He was Constable of Middleham Castle, Lord Lieutenant of the North Riding and one of the Lords of the King's Bedchamber. He held many high positions in parliament and was given an annual pension of £4,000. With this extra income, he began work on improving his estates. He had a new London house built called Holderness House. He rebuilt Sion Hill House near Isleworth in Middlesex and work began at Hornby. John Carr of York was the main architect and Capability Brown was called in to landscape the grounds and parks at Hornby, Sion Hill and Aston.

At Aston he asked architect John Carr to design a new hall to replace the old hall damaged by fire. It was completed in 1772. Robert had returned to Hornby Castle in September 1770 and it is unlikely he ever lived in the new house at Aston. Not long after its completion it was sold to Harry Verelst, former Governor of Bengal.

Robert died in 1778 at Sion Hill and was buried at Hornby and his wife Lady Mary had a marble memorial erected to him in the north aisle. She also donated a new font in 1783. Mary lived 29 years after Robert's death. She was a Lady of the Bedchamber to Charlotte, Queen Consort of King George III. She died at Holderness House in Mayfair in 1801, aged 80 and is buried in the same vault as Robert in Hornby Church.

There being no surviving male heir, their daughter Amelia became Baroness Conyers and the Earldom of Holderness ceased. She married Francis Godolphin Osborne, the Marquis of Carmarthen. His estate was at Kiveton Park. Robert the 4th Earl specifically bequeathed the furniture, books, pictures and stock at Hornby to his son-in-law Francis. He had previously bought the larger manor of Wales from his father-in-law. The smaller manor was already owned by the Osbornes, through Francis's father, Thomas, 4th Duke of Leeds.

Ann Key Secretary, Aston-cum-Aughton History Group



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Aston-cum-Aughton History Group

We 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

EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE SUNDAY 5 JANUARY 2025 @ 6:00pm

CHORAL EVENSONG SUNDAY 19 JANUARY 2025 @ 6:00pm

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE SUNDAY 26 JANUARY 2025 @ 6:00pm

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From the Registers

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Penelope Firth Lola Firth Elsie Sophia Ferguson Lucas Rory Shaw Bradley Lindley

Funerals :

Brian Eric Storey Kenneth Headley Moore



WHO TO CONTACT AT ALL SAINTS

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

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REGULAR SERVICES

PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS ASTON CUM AUGHTON

SUNDAYS:	All Age Worship (1st Sunday of the month) Parish Communion (2nd Sunday and 4th Sunday) Morning Worship (3rd Sunday) When there is a 5th Sunday To Be Arranged Evensong (2nd Sunday) Compline (4th Sunday)	10:30am 10:30am 10:30am 10:30am 6.00pm 6:00pm	
WEDNESDAYS:	Holy Communion	9.30am	
TEAM STAFF ALL SAINTS ASTON CUM AUGHTON			
CHILDREN'S MINISTER & WORSHIP LEADER: Beth Henshaw		07813 789255	
WARDENS:	Chris Ward (All Saints) Val Dixon (All Saints)	07949 186202 0114 287 3214	
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Louise Cooper		07581 421976	
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Elliott Walker		07954 685831	
MAGAZINE	Peter Maxted peter@themax2020.co.uk	0114 287 5477	
WEDDINGS	Gill Ward weddings.astonallsaints@gmail.com	п	
PARISH CHURCH OF HOLY TRINITY ULLEY			
SUNDAYS:	Holy Communion (1st Sunday) Morning Worship (2nd Sunday & 4th Sunday) Holy Communion (3rd Sunday) TEAM STAFF HOLY TRINITY ULLEY	9:00am 10.30am 10.30am	
ASSOCIATE PRIEST : Rev Vicky Camber Vicky_camber@yahoo.co.uk 01909 771101			
FOCAL MINISTRY TEAM HOLY TRINITY:			
	Peter Hutchinson Margaret Oakley Gloria Hope		
WARDENS:	NS: Sue Hubbard (Holy Trinity) Charlotte Darling (Holy Trinity)		

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 : Linda on 0114 287 6696**

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**

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

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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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CHURCHES OF SOUTHERN YORKSHIRE BY DAVID PAUL

In Churches of Southern Yorkshire, author David Paul explores a cross-section of historical churches throughout the County, including All Saints Aston.

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