Our Parish Aston-Cum-Aughton

February 2025



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On the Peculiarities of Ordination Candidates

The Rectory St James the Least of All

xty



My dear nephew Darren,

I was quite happy to see the young person from your church whom you are encouraging to get ordained – even though we did not entirely see eye to eye.

When I answered the door to someone dressed in T-shirt, jeans and trainers, I naturally assumed he was the gardener; it was only after I had given him the wheelbarrow and shown him where the spades were, that I found out who he really was. His assurance that this is how Jesus would dress, were He to visit in person again, jarred somewhat. I think that a three-piece suit and stout pair of brogues would be far more likely. We agreed to differ.

I was interested to hear that he was a church musician. Wanting to know if he sang tenor or bass, or even played the organ, he told me that he was the drummer in the worship band and provided backing vocals. I felt obliged to comment that I was not sure how that would fit in with Matins, but he told me that he had never heard of that Service, and only attended Mega Rock Praise. Since I suspected it would not have been written by Cranmer, we moved on.

I had hoped we may have been on safer ground when I asked him whether he preferred early perpendicular or Victorian gothic, but as he had apparently only ever worshipped in your converted cinema, he was unable to offer any opinion. His reaction to my offer to show him round our late Norman church, prompted him to tell me that he believed all churches should be closed and people should gather in each other's homes, like the early Christians.

In a last despairing attempt to find common ground I asked him if he had ever preached. He was slightly apologetic to admit that he had done so very rarely, as he found it took such a long time to write an hour-long sermon. When I mentioned that I did not think I had ever exceeded eight minutes in my entire life, he gave me such a look of withering astonishment that with heroic Christian charity, I did not beat him over the head with the Bible he was carrying.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

ALL SAINTS ASTON SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday 2 February - CANDLEMAS

10:30am All Age Service6:00pm THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Wednesday 5 February

9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 9 February

10:30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 12 February

9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 16 February

10:30am Holy Communion6:00pm CHORAL EVENSONG

Wednesday 19 February

9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 23 February

10:30am Holy Communion6:00pm SUNG COMPLINE

Wednesday 26 February

9:30am Holy Communion





Holy Trinity Church Ulley Services in February

Sunday 2 February - CANDLEMAS 10:30am Holy Communion

> Sunday 9 February 10:30am Holy Communion

> Sunday 16 February 10:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 23 February 10:30am Holy Communion

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



If I can Stop one Heart from breaking

If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not live in vain; If I can ease one life the aching, or cool one pain, Or help one fainting robin unto his nest again, I shall not live in vain

> By Emily Dickinson 1830 - 1886

ALL SAINTS CHURCH ASTON

ROTA FOR SIDESPEOPLE

FEBRUARY 2025

- 2 ALL AGE WORSHIP
- 9 HOLY COMMUNION
- 16 HOLY COMMUNION
- 23 HOLY COMMUNION

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

6th February : The Martyrs of Japan

Persecution of Christians in various countries is making the headlines these days. Believers facing such opposition might well find inspiration from the courage of the Japanese Christians of the late 16th and early 17th centuries.

The Jesuit Francis Xavier had first brought Christianity to Japan in 1549, when he persuaded Shimazu Takahisa, the daimyo of Satsuma, to give



him permission to build the first Catholic mission in Japan. All went well at first, and the Japanese responded to the message of Jesus Christ more warmly than anyone could have foretold. By the end of the century, it has been estimated that there were nearly 300,000 baptised converts to Christianity in Japan.

But soon the very success of the Japanese Church led it into trouble: its vibrant growth as an indigenous community believing a faith brought in from the West meant trouble. It was caught up in a maelstrom of tensions between the shogunate, imperial government, Buddhist monks, Shintoists, and colonial ambitions of Spain and Portugal. Gradually, the Japanese rulers came to see Christians as a threat. So Christianity was banned, and those Japanese who refused to abandon their faith were to be killed.

Trouble flared at Nagasaki on 6th February 1597, when six European Franciscan missionaries, three Japanese Jesuits and 17 Japanese laity, three of whom were young boys, were executed in a form of crucifixion by being elevated on crosses and then pierced with spears. Within a year, more than 130 churches had been burned. The persecution subsided, then flared up in 1613. Japanese Christians were beheaded, burned alive or imprisoned. They responded with courage and a willingness to sing praises and preach the gospel even as they were led to their deaths.

Such was the brutality of the persecution that by 1630 the Japanese Church had been driven underground and was thought to be lost. So, when missionaries arrived in the 19th century, they were astonished to find a community of Japanese Christians. It had survived for 250 years without clergy, churches, the Bible and only a sketchy idea of the Christian faith beyond one main thing: that Jesus Christ was Lord.



24th February : Matthias the Apostle, the Chosen One

Have you ever been in the position where someone is desperately needed – and you fit the bill perfectly? It is almost as if all your miscellaneous qualifications that never made much sense before now make PERFECT sense. And you sense that you have been chosen by God for the task....

If so, then Matthias is definitely the patron saint for you! Matthias came into the picture shortly after the suicide of Judas. The early Church was missing an apostle, and so the remaining 11 apostles prayed for guidance on who to choose as a replacement for this key role.

The qualifications for the job were specialised: the person had to have been a follower of Christ from His Baptism to His Ascension, and a witness of the Resurrection. There were two possibilities: Joseph Barsabas and Matthias. How to choose?

Again, Matthias' experience may mirror yours: the decision was out of his hands, and up to others. In this case, the apostles drew straws – and the 'lot' fell to Matthias. He had been chosen to replace Judas! The tragedy of Judas' betrayal had led to an opportunity for service by Matthias – and he was well prepared for the task. Are you prepared for any task that God might suddenly open before you?

Like the other apostles, Matthias had been in Jerusalem and had received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and he went on to do a good job. It is said he preached the Good News first in Judea, and then maybe in Cappadocia and by the Caspian Sea. It is thought he was martyred by the axe or halberd, and his relics eventually ended up being taken to Rome by the empress Helen.

Matthias is an encouragement to us to be faithful in small things – because you never know what the future might hold!

27th February : George Herbert Priest & Poet

If we were to name someone prominent from the 17th century, we might mention Rembrandt or Shakespeare. It is unlikely we would remember George Herbert. However, he was a prolific writer, a gifted speaker and musician. His hymns are still sung today.

Herbert was born into a wealthy family in Mid-Wales on 3rd April 1593. His father was a Member of Parliament who died when Herbert was three years old.



His mother moved her large family to London where, aged 12, Herbert entered Westminster School. In 1609, his mother remarried, and Herbert left home to be a student at Trinity College, Cambridge.

By the age of 23, Herbert had graduated with two degrees. He was fluent in Latin and Greek and in 1620 was elected as the University's Public Orator. He held this position for seven years, and for a short time was MP in his hometown in Wales. Although Herbert was securing an illustrious future and his speeches had gained the attention of King James 1, he was restless. He felt God was calling him to the priesthood and much of Herbert's poetry expressed his inner spiritual conflicts.

When the King died in 1625, and two influential patrons also died at about the same time, Herbert responded to God's call on his life and gave up his secular ambitions. He married in 1629 and became a priest in a small Anglican church in Bemerton in Wiltshire.

Here he found inner peace at last, serving God in the local community. His poetic talent continued to flourish along with his musicianship as a skilled lutenist. After only three years as a priest, he died of tuberculosis on 1st March 1633. He was 39. Some ninety of Herbert's poems have been set to music by such composers as Ralph Vaughan Williams and Benjamin Britten. His most well-known hymns are Teach me my God and King, Let all the world in every corner sing and King of glory, king of peace.

A number of artistic commemorations of Herbert exists in several churches and cathedrals including a stained-glass window in Westminster Abbey and a statue at the front of Salisbury Cathedral.

PRAYER BEFORE I SLEEP

Dear God, as I lay me down to sleep, relax the Tension of my body;

Calm the restlessness of my mind; Still the thoughts which worry and perplex me.

Help me to rest myself and all my problems in your strong and loving arms.

Let your Spirit speak to my mind and heart while I am asleep,

so that, when I wake up in the morning, I may find that I have received in the night time,

> Light for my way; Strength for my tasks; Peace for my worries; Forgiveness for my sins.

Grant me sleep tonight, And tomorrow power to live. In Jesus Holy Name. Amen

By Anonymous





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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.

VERELST



Harry Verelst 1731-1785

Harry Verelst was born in 1731, joined the East India Company in 1745, aged 15 and went out to India.

He worked his way up through the ranks to become Governor of Bengal from 1767 to 1769. He returned to England in 1770, a wealthy man. In 1771 he married Ann Wordsworth, the daughter of Josias and Ann Wordsworth of Wadworth Hall near Doncaster. In 1775 Harry bought the newly built Aston Hall from Robert Darcy, fourth Earl of Holderness.

Their first child, a daughter, Ann, had been born in 1772 and their second child, Mary, in 1773. Harriet was born in December 1774 and

Charlotte in 1775, but she died soon after birth. Then came their first son, Harry, born in 1777. These children were all baptised at St. James Church, Westminster. Their next child, Josias, was the first child to be baptised in Aston Church in 1778. Then came Arthur Charles, born 1779 and baptised in Aston, Louisa Elizabeth, born in 1781 and baptised in Westminster, Elizabeth born in 1783 and William, the last child, born in 1784, these last two baptised in Aston.

Unfortunately, Harry's planned family life at Aston Hall was disrupted in 1774 by a group of Armenian merchants who had been arrested by him in Bengal and who launched a civil case for damages against him. The Court decided in favour of the Armenians and Verelst had to pay £9,000 in damages, as well as full costs. Much of his fortune, which he estimated at £142,711 in 1772, was still in Bengal and was at risk of being lost. His purchase of Aston Hall for £50,000 had further strained his finances. In 1775 Verelst's secretary, John Knott, travelled to Bengal to collect his own and his employer's belongings. Verelst borrowed money to cover his immediate expenses, expecting Knott to return with more of his wealth.

Unfortunately, Knott died in the desert on the overland route back to Britain and everything was lost with him. Verelst's finances never recovered and in 1785 he left for Boulogne to evade his creditors.

Ann and the children stayed in Aston. Harry died in Boulogne on 24th October 1785, aged 54 years. He was buried in Minster Church, Thanet, Kent, close to Sevenscore, the village where his wife's family had at one time lived. There is a memorial to him in the church.

Their eldest son Harry inherited the estate in 1798. He had joined the Scot's Greys and rose to be a Colonel. He married Elizabeth Amelia Herbert of Muckross, Killarney, Ireland in 1803 at Ardfert Abbey, the seat of the Earl of Glandore. They had a daughter Charlotte Elizabeth who died in Paris in 1825 aged 15 years. Harry and Elizabeth separated in 1811. Harry died in 1837.

He was succeeded by his brother Arthur Charles. Arthur was vicar of Wadworth near Doncaster and then Vicar of Withycombe, Somerset from 1832. He married Charlotte Ann Charlton in 1818. They had a son Henry Arthur who was born in 1821 but died of consumption, aged 18. Arthur never lived at Aston, but he did visit.

After Arthur's death in 1843 the estate was inherited by his brother, William, who was Rector of Grayingham, Lincolnshire, from 1820 for 30 years. He also did not live at Aston, but like Arthur, he did visit. He married Sophia, eldest daughter of the late William Lee of Grove Hall, Yorkshire. They had no children and he died in 1851.

The estate was inherited by Charles Reed, the illegitimate son of Arthur Charles Verelst and Ann Margaret Reed. Charles was brought up by his uncle, Colonel Harry at Aston who made him his heir if his brothers died without issue, on condition that he take the name and bear the arms of Verelst. Charles decided he had to make his own way in the world. He became apprenticed to an architect and went on to become well-known in the Liverpool area. In 1845 he married Ann Jane Willasey. They had nine children, four of whom died soon after birth.

The family history says "when he came into possession, the encumbrances (five Verelst widows supported by the estate) were so heavy, that he not only did not get any money out of the estate, but it actually cost him money". As a result, Charles decided to continue to let Aston Hall and carry on working as an architect. By 1858 the widows were all dead and Charles planned to move to Aston Hall, but it was not to be. In 1859 he died suddenly of apoplexy. It was not until about 1868 that Jane and her family came to live here.

The eldest son Harry William was eleven when his father died and was 20 when he moved to Aston. In 1888 he married Mary Wilson, of the Wilsons who owned the snuff mills at Sharrow in Sheffield. They had four children, Mary Madge, Harry Wilson, Nancy and Rodney William. He was a Major in the 1st West York Yeomanry Cavalry, Lord Lieutenant of the County of Yorkshire and a Magistrate.

The eldest son, called Hal in the family, was educated at Eton and Sandhurst. He joined the Coldstream Guards in 1910 and went to the front on 12th August 1914. He was confirmed captain in 1915. He was mentioned in despatches and was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in action. He was killed on the 26th September 1916 at Les Boc of Sur les Sommes. He was just 26.

Harry William died in 1918 and his younger son Rodney William inherited. He was a major in the 11th Hussars and was serving in India when his fiancé Mary Vivien Vaughan Cox and his sister Madge went out to visit him. Sadly, during the visit Madge was killed in a motor accident.

Rodney and Mary married in 1923 and had two children, Ann Madge and Harry Simon. Rodney sold the Aston estate in 1928 and went to live in the south of England. He and his family moved to Kenya after World War II and he died in Cape Town in 1977. His descendants now live in Australia.

Ann Key Secretary, Aston-cum-Aughton History Group



* *

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

CHANGE OF CHURCH WEBSITE & E-MAIL ADDRESS

If you tried to look at the church website in the second half of December - or if you tried to contact us by email at the usual office address, then you will have realized that we had major problems with communication. If you got a 'site unavailable' message, or if your email bounced back, then we apologise.

All is working properly now and we have a new address:

Church Website : www.allsaintsaston.org

Office E-Mail : office@allsaintsaston.org

Our Parish Office is still : 07934 101538



From the Registers

Baptisms :

Funerals : Brian Purdy



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 Gloria Hope on **Baptism@gloriahope.uk**

If you would like to arrange a Funeral please speak to our Funeral Co-ordinator Gloria Hope **07553 504806**

Having a meeting or party?

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Contact E-Mail : office@allsaintsaston.org



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	n	
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		0114 442 5340 07803 118944 07788 123044	
WARDENS:	Sue Hubbard (Holy Trinity) Charlotte Darling (Holy Trinity)	0114 287 3846 07957 627402	

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

xtx

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**

ALL SAINTS CHURCH ASTON

CHORAL EVENSONG SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2025 @ 6:00pm SUNG COMPLINE SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2025 @ 6:00pm

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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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