Our Parish Aston-Cum-Aughton

May 2025



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On why people should ALWAYS sit in the same pew

The Rectory St James the Least of All

×14

My dear nephew Darren,



I have to say that the couple who complained that you never noticed they had been missing from church for a month had a point. There is a simple way of noticing when someone is absent: everyone sits in the same pew. Every Sunday. Always.

Little Miss Margison sits in the pew after the third pillar on the right here at St James the Least. As she walks up the aisle, you can sense her counting the pillars until she reaches the right one, which then allows her to sit in front of it. I have speculated that if I ever had that pillar removed, then the following Sunday, she would have a complete mental collapse.

One Sunday a visiting family arrived early and sat down; three people in an empty church seating 200. Colonel Wainwright and his wife were the first of our regulars to arrive and froze in horror. The Colonel said in a deafening whisper to his wife: "There's someone sitting in our pew."

At least they had the grace – no matter how reluctant – for one week, to sit somewhere else. Unlike the Prentice family of husband, wife and three children, who arrived to discover that a visiting family of husband, wife and four children were sitting in their pew; six people in a pew that held eight. Or, it normally holds eight. That Sunday, it held thirteen.

We at least have one iconoclast in Miss Pemberton, who makes a point of sitting in a different place every week. This thoroughly unsettles the rest of the congregation, who fear she may sit in their seats during her nomadic wanderings. I sometimes wonder if she has a chart at home with all the pew spaces marked on it and she strikes one off each week as she returns home after Matins.

Occasionally the unexpected can happen. Mrs Cholmondeley arrived one week in good time, settled herself in her accustomed place, but half-way through the Service suddenly ran out of the building. Ten minutes later, she was back and in her usual place once again. It was only when the church filled with the smell of burned bacon that we understood.

That is why replacing pews with chairs in your church was a mistake. Pews can never be moved. You know where everybody is – or should be!

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



ALL SAINTS ASTON SERVICES IN MAY 2025

Sunday 4 May

10:30am All Age Worship

Wednesday 7 May

9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 11 May

10:30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 14 May

9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 18 May

10:30amHoly Communion6:00pmEVENSONG

Wednesday 21 May

9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 25 May

10:30am	Holy Communion
6:00pm	SUNG COMPLINE

Wednesday 28 May

9:30am Holy Communion

Thursday 29 May - ASCENSION DAY

7:30pm Holy Communion



Holy Trinity Church Ulley Services in May

Sunday 4 May 9:00am Holy Communion

Sunday 11 May 10:30am Morning Worship

Sunday 18 May 10:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 25 May 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

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ALL SAINTS CHURCH



We could not fulfil our God-given vision without your generous offering of your time, talents and finance. We encourage everyone to give but especially regular members of the church in order to contribute to the vision of the church and the activities associated with it.

You can give in many different ways...

- 1. On Sundays. When the offering plate or basket is passed around the congregation. Please also consider using the envelopes in church so that we can benefit from Gift Aid, where we can **claim an extra 25p of every £1** of your donation from the Government!
- 2. Any Day the Church is open. At the back of church, we have a contactless giving machine that can take a donation from your Debit or Credit card. Contactless giving enables people to give in a way that they feel comfortable to, using their card to make a transaction in the same way they would in everyday life. It is ideal for casual visitors who do not have regular giving set up but would like to give. Please also consider using the envelopes in church so that we can benefit from Gift Aid, where we can claim an extra 25p of every £1 of your donation from the Government!
- 3. Regular Giving (Gift Aid Scheme) Please contact our Gift Aid Secretary, who will help to who will help to arrange a regular bank standing order or gift envelope where we can **claim an extra 25p of every £1** of your donation from the Government.

Gift Aid Secretary - Carl Spencer Tel : **07450 648964** or E-Mail : **office@allsaintsaston.org** and mention Regular Giving (Gift Aid Scheme)

ALL SAINTS CHURCH ASTON ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING ON SUNDAY 18 MAY 2025

IN CHURCH AFTER THE SERVICE @ 11:30 am

ALL ARE WELCOME

This is the Annual Meeting where members of the Parochial Church Council report on the affairs of the Church. It allows Parishioners to be involved and ask appropriate questions and those on the Electoral Roll to vote to elect new members of the PCC.

If you would like to know more, please contact one of the churchwardens. Chris Ward - Tel : 0749 186202 or E-Mail : <u>chrismarkward@sky.com</u> Val Dixon - 07790 791463



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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One Tree can start a Forest; One Smile can begin a Friendship; One Hand can lift a Soul; One Word can frame a Goal; One Candle can wipe out Darkness; One Laugh can conquer Gloom; One Hope can raise our Spirits; One Touch can show you Care; One Life can make a Difference, Be that One today.

> By BJ Gallagher (b1949)

ALL SAINTS CHURCH ASTON ROTA FOR SIDESPEOPLE

MAY 2025

- 4 ALL AGE WORSHIP
- 11 HOLY COMMUNION
- 18 HOLY COMMUNION
- 25 HOLY COMMUNION

Bill Mawson & Marjorie O'Neil Gill Ward & Ann Mason Sheila Brown & Pam Taylor Bill Mawson & Pauline Martin



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

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

1st May : MAY DAY, Unbridled Merriment

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to 'all sorts'! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli.

For centuries in 'Olde England' the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence and unbridled merriment. One Philip Stubbes, writing in 1583, was scandalised: 'for what kissing and bussing, what smooching and slabbering one of another, is not practised?'

Henry VIII went 'maying' on many occasions. Then folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets and return in the morning for dancing on the green around the May pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and evening bonfires. The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day, and in 1644 May Day was abolished altogether. Many May poles came down – only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles's reign was 'the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England', according to Pepys.

May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire.

May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and – since 1833 – Robert Owen's vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but harmony and friendship. This is why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. And until recently, in communist countries May Day processions were in honour of the achievement of Marxism.

There has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well-known 6am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day.

An Old May Carol includes the lines:

The life of man is but a span, it flourishes like a flower We are here today and gone tomorrow – we are dead within an hour.

There is something of a sadness about it, both in words and tune, as there is about all purely sensuous joy. For May Day is not Easter, and the joys it represents have always been earth-bound and fleeting.

29th May : ASCENSION DAY, 40 days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged



His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them – to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands – and blessed them."

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him – and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

31st May : Mary visits Elizabeth



Mary – the virgin mother of Jesus. For centuries the eastern and western churches have considered her pre-eminent among all the saints.

In the gospels, Mary makes her first appearance as a teenager. Nothing is known of her childhood, and what we do know of her is found mostly in Matthew 1 - 2 and in Luke 1 - 2. If you read both accounts, you'll notice that Luke's account seems to give the story from Mary's standpoint, whereas Matthew concentrates more on Joseph's side of things. In both accounts the virginal conception of Christ is clearly stated. Mary's quiet devotion to God and her total acceptance of His will shine forth.

Her visit to Elizabeth, when both were pregnant, is a moving and poignant account of two humble, ordinary women, suddenly caught up in a great event that would shape world history. Their trusting faith in God and acceptance of His will, shine through.

After Jesus is born, Mary fades into the background, and makes few appearances: when the family visits Jerusalem and she loses her son on the way home; when she urges Him to help the wedding party in Cana with its wine problem; and when Jesus gives her into the keeping of the beloved disciple when He is dying on the cross.

Mary's last appearance is in Acts chapter one, just before Pentecost.

Mary obviously joined the early Church, but her role was never one of teaching and preaching, and indeed she remained so much in the background that nothing more about her is known for certain. Both Ephesus and Jerusalem have claimed to be the place of her death.

Mary, chosen to be the mother of Jesus Christ, one who is both God and Man, holds a unique place in the history of mankind. Down the centuries that have followed, the Church has paid special honour to Mary – and well deserved it is. "All generations shall call me blessed..."

THE PRAYER OF THOMAS MERTON

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. Do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this You will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore, I will trust You always though I may seem to be lost and in the Shadow of Death.

I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton (1915 – 1968)

Thomas Merton, Religious name M. Louis, was an American Trappist Monk, writer, theologian, mystic, poet, social activist and scholar of comparative religion. He was a monk in the Trappist Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani, near Bardstown Kentucky, living there from 1941 to his death. Merton became a keen proponent of interfaith understanding, exploring Eastern religions through study and practice.





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2nd Friday of each month

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Little Angels Formerly known as Praise & Play

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NORTH STAVELEY COLLIERY PAVILION



xtx

Sitting on the "Ocean Wave" in the children's playground at North Staveley, with the Pavilion in the background.

In the Parish of Aston Church Magazine of December 1894, it was reported that a meeting had been held on the 2nd November to discuss "the desirability and the practicability of erecting a Public Room for the use of the village (Aston Terrace). The initial difficulty was the procuring of a piece of land for a site. H W Verelst, Esq., the Lord of the Manor, has been approached on the matter and, we trust, we may soon be in a position to announce that the scheme will go forward."

The meeting with Mr. Verelst was successful because in the magazine of March 1896 it was reported "we are thankful to say that we are on the point of having our hopes realised as to a Room for this village. H W Verelst, Esq., of Aston Hall has kindly allowed a piece of land for the purpose, and the erection of the much-needed building will be proceeded with at once, under the guidance of Mr Boaler. We trust many friends will lend a helping hand". (Lincoln Electric now occupies this land on Mansfield Road, opposite the Roland Arms.)

The building was known as the Pavilion, although on the ordnance survey map of 1905 it is shown as "Reading Room and Mission Hall". Here the miners could meet socially and play snooker, billiards, darts, dominoes, cards etc. In May 1898 it was reported in the Eckington, Woodhouse and Staveley Express that "the members of the North Staveley Reading-room mean to keep up to the old times, as after clearing off the old debt on the place, and providing a three quarter billiard-board, they have decided to provide a full table, and have accordingly placed an order with Messrs. Fitzpatrick and Longley, which will in all probability entail an expenditure of over £50; but as billiards is a strong feature at the reading-room, the table will no doubt soon clear itself". Outside was a bowling green, tennis courts and a recreation ground for the children with roundabout and swings.

On the 20th November 1911 an agreement was made between Harry William Verelst and Revd. W. H. Brooke, Rector of Aston. Revd. Brooke became the tenant of a parcel of land near the North Staveley Colliery, on which was erected the Mission Room (previously known as the Pavilion), the plot contained one rood and seven perches, more or less. The rent was five shillings per annum, payable on the 25th March 1912.

Prior to Revd. Brook taking over as tenant, the room seemed to have been for the sole use of miners at the North Staveley Colliery. Reports in the local newspaper between 1912 and 1920 show the mission room being used by other local groups and societies for meetings and social events. These included ladies' groups such as the Aston Terrace Ladies Sewing Guild who met here and also organised social dances. The Girls' Friendly Society held social evenings here, usually involving dancing and games. The Aston Terrace Tennis Club and Aston Terrace Miners' Welfare held their meetings here and the Church of England Men's Society also held some of their meetings in the mission room.

In February 1922 the local paper reported that the private dancing classes organised by Messrs. Rowbotham and Marsden in the North Staveley Mission Room through the winter had ended with a merry party. During the evening, Mr Tracey played "The Hymn to the Soldiers of the York and Lancaster Regiment", composed by Mr A Willis-Dixon Esq. of Aston Hall. Copies were sold at 6d each to raise money for the Yorks and Lancs Memorial Fund for those who fell in the Great War.

The colliery closed in 1936 but the houses continued to be occupied until they were demolished in 1963.

Ann Key

xtx

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.

ontact	Brian Mears 0114 287 7751
	Gloria Hope 07788 123044
	Ann Key 0114 287 2610

ALL SAINTS CHURCH ASTON

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From 10:00am

SATURDAY 31 MAY 2025

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ALL WELCOME



REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

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 :

Arlo Rodger Malone Orla Daisy Middleton

Funerals :

William Bradshaw Mona Rita Pashley-Jones (known as Rita)



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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REGULAR SERVICES

PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS ASTON CUM AUGHTON

SUNDAYS:	All Age Worship (1s Parish Communion (Morning Worship (3 When there is a 5th Evensong (2nd Sun Compline (4th Sund	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	07950 412753		
GIVING SECRETA	ARY Carl Spencer	office@allsaintsaston.org	07450 648964		
WEDDINGS	Gill Ward	weddings.astonallsaints@gma	ail.com		
PARISH CHURCH OF HOLY TRINITY ULLEY					
SUNDAYS:	Holy Communion (1st Sunday) Morning Worship (2nd Sunday & 4th Sunday) Holy Communion (3rd Sunday)		9:00am 10.30am 10.30am		
TEAM STAFF HOLY TRINITY ULLEY					
ASSOCIATE PRIEST : Rev Vicky Camber <i>Vicky_camber@yahoo.co.uk</i>			01909 771101		

 FOCAL MINISTRY TEAM HOLY TRINITY:
 0114 442 5340

 Peter Hutchinson
 0114 442 5340

 Margaret Oakley
 07803 118944

 Gloria Hope
 07788 123044

 WARDENS:
 Sue Hubbard (Holy Trinity)
 0114 287 3846

 Charlotte Darling (Holy Trinity)
 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.

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 - CURRENTLY CLOSED

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

ALL SAINTS CHURCH ASTON

SPRING RAFFLE

Many Thanks to all those who bought a raffle ticket.

The money raised has gone towards the Performance of STAINERS CRUCUFIXION on PALM SUNDAY.

Here are the winning Numbers:



 433 LESLEY
 410 SUZAN

 511 ELLIOTT
 336 LISA JH

 521 JEANETTE (CHOIR)
 456 SAM B

 464 SAM B
 487 ELLIOT

 426 LESLEY
 367 PAM

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