



# trio

**Abbeydale and Millhouses Parish Magazine**

**Easter 2024**

**Update on Dore & Topley station; Rejuvenating the Greenbelt; Celebrating Easter; Invite to a 'Green Party'; Fact and myths about Spring; Recipes and crafts and much more...**

# Parish of Abbeydale and Millhouses

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Ann Smedley 235 6931

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**Usual SUNDAY Services** (Maybe occasional changes!)

**10.00 am Parish Communion**  
*with music*

**1st & 3rd Sundays at Holy Trinity,**

**2nd & 4th at St. John's**

**5th Sundays alternate SO....**

**SEE PAGE 15** (centre right page) and website for dates and venues of all services

**This service can be followed on 'Zoom' or phone** for details check the website

**[amchurchsheffield.co.uk](http://amchurchsheffield.co.uk)**

**Other church events & activities on p.14 & 27**



For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, plus bookings for churchbuildings, halls and the Parish centre, please contact the church office

**[htmillhousesoffice@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:htmillhousesoffice@yahoo.co.uk)**

or **Bev Ramsey 0114 249 0377**

**Emergency contact:** The Revd. Nicholas Noble

Email: [nrrnoble@gmail.com](mailto:nrrnoble@gmail.com) or

WhatsApp message on 0794 205 4572

CHARITY NUMBER 1142485

*From our Associate Priest,*

*Rev'd Dr. Angie Lauener,*

**“And it’s from the old I travel to the new,  
Keep me travelling along with you.”**

*These are words from a hymn popular at weddings, with the title ‘One more step along the world I go’. I can see why couples would choose it. Marriage is one more big step along the world, the tune is upbeat, and the words are positive. Through all the ups and downs of life, where the future is uncertain, the words of the hymn assure us that God is with us every step of the way.*

*And so this is the theme of the Easter edition of TRIO – ‘and it’s from the old, I travel to the new’. It prompts us to think of new things - in our environment, in our parish and in our personal lives. In our surroundings in Abbeydale and Millhouses, new buildings and businesses are bringing change – the new care home on Twentywell Lane; the massive amount of building work going on at Dore and Totley Station to create a new platform – and traffic hold-ups with the regular appearance of traffic lights!; new small businesses coming and going. In this parish, we have a new vicar, Nicholas, still in the early months of his time here as priest-in-charge and ‘oversight minister’. This means he will be working alongside Anglican priests who are also oversight ministers in the neighbouring parishes of Dore and Totley. We look forward to new ideas, energy and initiatives that may emerge as we look together to the future. New things in our personal lives are inevitable: health issues, beyond our control, bring new challenges; starting school, and moving on in education; employment; retirement; family relationships; bereavement – all of these new experiences bring their challenges.*

*These ‘new’ things are perhaps the more obvious and visible experiences we share. But I wonder about the more hidden journeys from old to new, and if sometimes, it is the **journey** that is as important as the destination. Some people go on walking pilgrimages to reflect on life events – perhaps coming to terms with a loss of some kind, or another major change in their lives. I also wonder about the mental journeying that can take place in our attitudes. As I have been sorting through stuff I have saved and not looked at in years – my attempt to fulfil my new year’s resolution of ‘making space’ – I have been plunged into memories of former times, and realise that I now have new perspectives and attitudes.*

*Easter is a time when, as Christians, we celebrate new life. We remember with joy and thanks the new life given to Jesus, when the world thought he was dead and gone for ever following his crucifixion. But God showed his power over evil and death and his love for humanity by raising Jesus to new life, making new life and eternal life possible for all of us. All are welcome to come to our Holy Week and Easter services, to hear again in word and music, the story of Easter and of God’s unfailing love, forgiveness and compassion and to share in the joy of Jesus’ resurrection. And to be assured that as we journey to new life, he will be with us every step of the way.*

*Wishing  
you the  
joy and  
blessings  
of Easter.*

**Angie**



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## MISSION PARTNERS

### Rev'd Andy Patrick,

Well Hello Dear Reader,

I'm now getting settled into my new role as Priest in Charge after about eight weeks of learning the ropes! A lot of people have made the effort of reaching out and making me feel welcome. The Diocese has a lot of levels of support put in place, all of which have served me very well. One of those is the "Mission Partnership". It is a title which makes me feel a bit like James Bond. That's not a common feeling as a priest, so I lean into it when I can.

My Special Mission Partners, (SMPs to those in the know), are Rev'd Ben Tanner in Topley, and Rev'd Andy Patrick in Dore. Ben and I happen to have known each other since we were about 13 years old, but Andy was to me, an unknown quantity, a wildcard if you will. Any special agent of His Majesty's Spiritual Service, (commonly known as the CofE), will tell you, you need to trust the agent by your side implicitly if the team is going to function effectively. I had to get to the bottom of this mystery and get the measure of the man, and quick sharp. What sort of a chap was I going to find there? A Cleric, an Ambassador, a Pioneer or an Academic? A man with a plan, or a reed swaying in the wind? Whatever the answer: it needed to be found, and since we've not featured Andy in TRIO to date, it needed to be reported in writing!

READ ON, DEAR READER!

He kindly invited me to a rendez-vous. I, in turn, rendezvous-ed and met him, in Dore, at "The Dore", (indoors. as it was cold). I was wearing a red carnation so as to be recognizable. He was wearing a priest's collar which on reflection would have been a much more appropriate thing for me to have chosen too. We live and learn.

I found him the very model of a bright young Vicar. He is engaging, friendly, and switched on to the world around him. He ordered himself a coffee, to my dismay as I'd already set my heart on a Guinness. 1-0 to Andy. I consoled myself with the thought that I was not in my home parish, and Guinness has historical links to Christian social action.



Andy has been in post for two years since he moved from Harrogate. He's married to Claire with whom he has two children. We spoke about the different challenges and joys of seeking ordination, training and working as a priest whilst trying to be a good husband and father. He and I have a similar story in that we both grew up attending



church as kids in Yorkshire in the 90s. We, are both Yorkshiremen, husbands and fathers of two. He and I both have music in the blood although he exceeded me in music education studying it at one of the top three music education institutions in Hull at that time.

Andy tells me a little about the reordering work at Dore and the style of services there. The most important thing about his call to ministry here, though, is not the architecture, the musical styles or the theological tradition. His affinity with the people of Dore, his people, or tribe is what struck me most about our conversation. There is a deep sense of being at home there, for him and his family. Dwelling amongst a people is at the heart of Parish ministry. It is why vicars have vicarages. It's not considered a commuter job, but rather, a live in vocation. Andy speaks kindly and fondly of the people he meets, those at the school gates, in the church pews and the neighbours across the road.

I'm struck by how much that means to him and how much I want that for my ministry, and my family here in Abbeydale Millhouses. I think about the example of Jesus, too. He walked among his people for 33 years, developing a deep understanding of their ways and thoughts. He knew what slang they used, what food they ate and how they made it. He was known to them too, for better and for worse. As we try to follow Jesus, we discover that loving those who live around us, are those we are called to serve. I don't need to divine a supernatural insight into a special demographic. I hope, like Andy, that we can all learn to literally love our neighbours, and bloom where we are planted.

Mission Report Signing off,

Mission Partner "003", Noble,

### Nicholas Noble,

Rev'd Nicholas Rory Raphael Rognli-Olsen Noble, Cand. Theol.



Our Parish's Lent appeal this year is for a local charity,

## Golddigger Trust

This is a local charity whose aim is to help the many young people, (mostly girls), suffering anxiety and depression, mainly through a lack of self-esteem and worthiness, and occasionally verging on suicide.

Currently they are based in a small cottage on Psalter Lane, but hoping to move shortly to larger premises nearer the city centre in order to offer more safe space for young people to drop in and talk with professionals about their difficulties and how to develop strategies to overcome them.

The charity employs a number of qualified youth workers who work in 10 secondary schools across Sheffield. They also have someone available in the A & E department at the Children's Hospital and last year were able to help 125 children who turned up there.

The title represents their aim to help these young people discover their skills and attributes and build on these.

There are several ways **to donate to 'Golddigger'.....**

- ⇒ Use a small yellow envelope from the tables at the back of either Holy Trinity or St. John's. Please write 'Lent Appeal'. Place in secure post box near exit.
- ⇒ Contact David Crosby, (treasurer), details on p.2
- ⇒ Direct to Golddigger—see website:  
[www.golddiggertrust.co.uk](http://www.golddiggertrust.co.uk)

**Please help us to help these unhappy, vulnerable children.**

**Thank you.**

## ABBEYDALE AND MILLHOUSES

### CHARITABLE GIVING 2023

**The parish made a number of donations in the year.**

Share Psychotherapy Sheffield	£1,758.75
Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal	£2,153.75
Christian Aid	£308.75
British Red Cross Morocco Earthquake	£775.00
British Red Cross Libya Flood	£765.20
Cathedral Archer Homeless Project	£63.75
Bereaved Families Forum Israel/Palestine	£1,541.55
Medical Aid for Palestine	£1,000.00
Children's Society	£1,758.48
Age UK	£1,000.00
Grace Food Bank plus food collections	£1,500.00
Manor and Castle Development Trust	£1,500.00
Shelter Box Trust	£1,400.00
<b>TOTAL including Gift Aid Tax</b>	<b>£15,516.28</b>

## It's nearing the end of a long saga down at Dore & Totley Station....

We're not quite there yet, but we're seeing real tangible progress every day. The new covered footbridge with lifts is in place and the new platform is being fitted out. The colours reflect the Midland Railway heritage, and also that British Railways Midland Region kept the Hope Valley stations open when the Eastern Region closed all the others between Sheffield and Chesterfield.



On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March the 5.14am TransPennine Express train to Liverpool should be the first to stop in new Platform 1. Be there bright and early to see it – or wait for the 6.15am when the photographers should have brighter light. More formal celebrations likely to follow a few weeks later?

This is always assuming the final last touches have been completed, all the final safety inspections have been successful allowing necessary legal paperwork to be signed off authorising the station for public use. It's more than a formality.

Unfortunately the project's running behind the original schedule. We already know the car park won't reopen until the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, after the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. It has taken a bashing from all the construction vehicles and machinery with piles of materials and trenches dug across it. As I write it looks an awful mess but by the time you read this it should already be looking better.

The complete project includes three other key components. A new freight loop is already complete between Bamford and Hathersage.

This will allow long train loads of limestone or cement to pull in and be overtaken by passenger services. Currently once they leave the Buxton area quarries or the Hope Cement works all passenger services have to follow them nearly all the way to Sheffield.

If they can't cut across and through little Dore Tunnel to go south, (below Poynton Wood), they block the track into Sheffield for all other trains.

Another loop is being built by West View Lane to tackle that problem. Once complete freight trains will be able to stop between the Hope Valley and Midland mainlines rather than blocking any of the running lines. This part of the work has encountered some big problems, not helped by all the wet weather. It has become very time critical but the engineers believe it will be ready on time.

The entire section from Unstone in to Sheffield and out to Bamford will be controlled from a new signalling panel in the York Rail Operating Centre. Signal boxes at Grindleford and Totley Tunnel East will be going together with all the old semaphore signals. It's understood Network Rail may have received expressions of interest in preserving both the boxes.

What comes next? We want to confirm details of under cover seating to replace the now demolished brick shelter. We are led to believe station toilets aren't totally impossible, but not soon. We'd like more car parking space but first we have to show how much 'new' business is being served after 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Currently we have an hourly stopping rail service between Sheffield and Manchester with stops by fast trains every hour morning and evening for Manchester bound commuters.

After all the anticipation of restoration starting over 20 years ago, followed by construction taking more than four years, it's incredibly disappointing to discover there will be no extra stops or any more trains in 2024, and probably not in 2025 either. It seems all the minutes gained will be used to ensure more trains run to the existing timetable. That's certainly needed.

Roll on April and June. Come and try the 'new' station - direct trains to Liverpool, Cleethorpes, Norwich or wherever your fancy takes you, take your pick. Watch this space!

**Chris Morgan, Chairman, Friends of Dore and Totley Station (FoDaTS)**





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**Brian Cranwell tells of a little known group bringing help and hope to refugees fleeing from persecution and seeking a new life of safety....**

## Faith and Fear

While we who live in a part of the world where extremes of temperature are the rarity rather than the norm, and where we can find plenty to moan about from politics, inflation, or the NHS, we do not normally have to go in fear of our lives because of our beliefs, or lack of them.

In other parts of the world, sadly, this is far from the case and we only hear of the more extreme examples of faith persecution, such as the murder or abduction of dozens of school children from a school in Nigeria by members of an extreme jihadist group.

Yet even as I write I suspect many of those who read this do not know of the fact that an entire nation has had to leave one of the lands in the Middle East where Christianity first became the faith of the nation, leaving hundreds of ancient Churches to be ransacked and burned down.

Almost the entire population of Nagorno-Karabak have had to flee to Armenia, their bodies weakened by months of near starvation. Many of them are frantic and grieving through not knowing of the fates of loved ones – who disappeared and were probably captured by Azerbaijan.

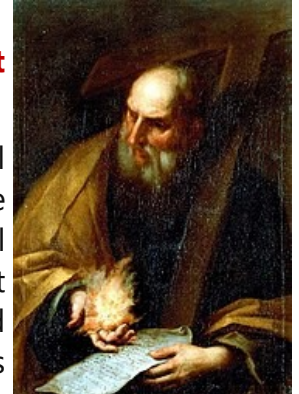


As well as Nigeria, we know too of extremists groups in Uganda, the anti-Christian attitudes and activities of rulers or district officials in Iran, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Mozambique, Myanmar, and Pakistan.

One organisation that is involved in trying to assist such persecuted groups is the St. Barnabas Trust.

### So who was Saint Barnabas?

Barnabas was a biblical figure who was a Levite from Cyprus. His real name was Joseph but he was nicknamed Barnabas which means "son of encouragement".



He was known for his strong faith and encouraging believers to "stay true to the Lord." According to the Bible Barnabas sold his property and gave 100% of the proceeds to the disciples. He also found St. Paul and invited him to join him in the ministry.

In inviting us to assist with their ministry this Trust is not expecting us to sell everything we own to help fund them but clearly such outreach to those suffering for their faith does need hard cash, so we are invited to assist, and the contact address is:

**Barnabas Aid, Unit 23, Ash Industrial Estate, Kembrey Park, Swindon SN2 8UN**

Such contributions would help to remind us to be thankful that we do not face similar persecution to those the Trust supports, and who are in need of our prayers as well as our practical support.

*Armenian flag*



*N.B. Google 'Armenia' to read of Armenian history, including horrific stories of the genocide of Armenians by the Turks in 1915/16. Editor*

## 'Nothing is so beautiful as Spring' – Gerard Manley Hopkins

As I look out of my window at the reassuringly familiar sights of Millhouses it is easy to forget that I am a sort of astronaut. I am clinging by a force beyond my comprehension to the side of an immense spherical rock hurtling through the depths of space on a preordained route around the Sun. This amazing craft, on which we are all passengers, conveys us with a level of predictability and dependability bus or train companies can only dream of! And as it does so, it rotates on its axis, a huge cosmic carousel that gives us night and day and a means of measuring time itself. But whether through design or a happy accident, the Earth's north / south axis sits at an angle from the Sun of about 23.5 degrees, causing a phenomenon that affects us all, shaping the pattern of our lives: the Seasons.



We all dream of glorious Summers, and Autumn has its fans, but Spring is probably the most eagerly awaited of all the seasons.

Its arrival brings a welcome release from the harshness of Winter, and a promise of regeneration as the world awakes from a deep slumber. Days grow longer, brighter and mercifully warmer. The earth becomes greener as shoots sprout from the ground and trees come into bud. Blossoms and spring flowers are put forth in all their glory, whilst in fields and nests new lives are created and nurtured. It is no surprise then that Spring has been celebrated by peoples and cultures since ancient times.

The 'vernal equinox' occurs when the day and night are of equal length and is frequently regarded as 'the First Day of Spring'. In 2024 the UK will experience this on 20 March where it will largely go unnoticed. Historically, however, this has been a time of huge significance for many peoples who have gone to extraordinary lengths to predict and observe it.

Chichén Itzá, a large city on the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico, was built from c600 AD to c1000 AD by the Mayans whose construction skills and knowledge of astronomy were astounding. The city was, and still is, dominated by a huge, stepped pyramid, the Temple of Kukulcán (a feathered serpent deity). Around the time of the spring (and autumnal) equinox a series of triangular shadows appears at one corner of the pyramid.



This causes an optical illusion that resembles a huge snake slithering down the steps, culminating in an enormous carved head of Kukulcán at the bottom.

Whether this was deliberately engineered to mark the equinox is debated, but it is an impressive sight which doubtless filled observers with awe and perhaps fear.

[Angkor Wat](#) is a massive temple complex (originally Hindu, now Buddhist) in Cambodia, built by the Khmer people around 900 years ago. Recognised as the world's largest religious



building, it was designed as an enormous celestial calendar. On the morning of the spring equinox the rising Sun can be seen to 'crown' the central tower of the temple.

On the Mediterranean island of Malta the temple complex of Mnajdra makes Chichén Itzá and Angkor Wat seem like positive newbuilds. Believed to date from 3600 to 2500 BC it is amongst the most ancient religious sites in the world. Yet despite its antiquity, the amazing precision of its construction means its main doorway is perfectly aligned with the rising sun at the spring and autumn equinoxes when sunlight floods through the main corridor to the innermost altar.

Closer to home (but still quite remote!), excavations of the neolithic settlement at the Ness of Brodgar in the Orkneys has revealed a prominent decorated standing stone precisely aligned with the equinox sunrise. And the spring equinox is one of a number of solar events still celebrated at Stonehenge in Wiltshire, albeit by modern day Druids whose rituals may bear little resemblance to those of their ancient predecessors.

These are just a few of the ancient architectural marvels around the world designed in some way to illustrate the turning of the years. But wonderful, awe-inspiring buildings such as these are not necessary to celebrate Spring.

In Japan 'Vernal Equinox Day' is a public holiday established for the admiration of nature and the love of living things. Families are visited and farmers pray for their future harvests. Interestingly, amongst all the celebrating of new life it is also a time for visiting family graves.

In China what we know as Chinese New Year is simply referred to as 'Spring Festival'. It is a time when homes are thoroughly cleaned to remove any vestiges of bad luck and make room for incoming good fortune. A time for family reunions and firecrackers, and giving presents of money in red envelopes, an auspicious colour.

In India the arrival of Spring is celebrated by *Holi*, the Hindu Festival of Colours. With an emphasis on fun, Holi is enjoyed by Hindus and non-Hindus alike. There is much throwing of brightly coloured powders at one other, eating Holi delicacies and visiting friends and family.



The Jewish festival of Passover commemorates the Exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, but its timing is calculated by reference to the vernal equinox and it is also sometimes referred to as Spring Festival, marking the start of the agricultural year.

At the heart of the festival is a special meal, the Passover *seder*. In the Bible the final meal (the Last Supper) that Jesus eats with his disciples before his betrayal and crucifixion is the *seder*.



Jesus's resurrection from the dead three days later also occurred during Passover week. This places the events commemorated and celebrated by Christians during Holy Week and at Easter firmly within springtime. At some point the early Church split from the Jewish calendar, but the somewhat complicated formula for calculating the date of Easter ('Resurrection Sunday') is still based on the vernal equinox, giving a date anywhere between 22 March and 25 April. (Easter is known as a 'moveable feast' as it has no fixed date, unlike Christmas for example).

But wasn't Easter originally a pagan festival that got appropriated by the early Christians?

Well, yes and no. Although the links between Easter and the Jewish Passover are clear, there *is* a pagan connection. The name Easter is derived from *Ēostre*, the Saxon goddess of springtime and fertility. According to Bede ('The Father of English History') writing in 8<sup>th</sup> Century Northumbria, Anglo-Saxon pagans had been accustomed to holding feasts in Ēostre's honour during April, but by his time this practice had died out, replaced by celebrations of Jesus's resurrection.

Interestingly, two of the symbols associated with Ēostre are hares and eggs. Does this possibly account for the origin of the Easter Bunny? One Easter tradition that definitely *cannot* be attributed to Ēostre is chocolate! This most wondrous of substances first appeared in its modern block form in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, although use of the cocoa bean dates back thousands of years to the Americas. There it took the form of a rather bitter drink. Believed to have first been cultivated in South America in what is now Ecuador around 5,500 years ago, consumption of cocoa gradually expanded northwards to many ancient cultures of Central America, including the Mayans. Perhaps many a Mayan enjoyed a mug of chocolate whilst waiting for Kukulcán to wriggle down his pyramid!

However *you* may choose to mark the upcoming season, whether by celebrating Easter or some other festival, or just enjoying the (hopefully!) better weather and signs of new life 'springing up' everywhere, I hope you are able to make the most of it. Let us all try to remember the words of the late, great comedian Robin Williams:

***"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'"***

**Andrew Bullock**



# 'Special Events'

## Holy Week

### Walk of Witness

Friday 29th March

For over 30 years every  
Good Friday morning

Christians of all denominations from churches along Abbeydale Road have met together at **10.30am outside Holy Trinity Church**. Then, following a large wooden cross, have walked together round the back of Tesco and all the way down to **The Mother of God Church**. This act of witness finishes with a short service and welcome refreshments.

The (slow!) walk usually takes just over an hour and happens *whatever* the weather — and it can vary from snow to really warm sunshine!!!

**All welcome including wheel-chairs and buggies.**

### 'The Cross of Christ'

A choral work for  
Good Friday sung  
by the Parish choir  
plus friends

Holy Trinity Church 6.30pm

Good Friday, 29th March

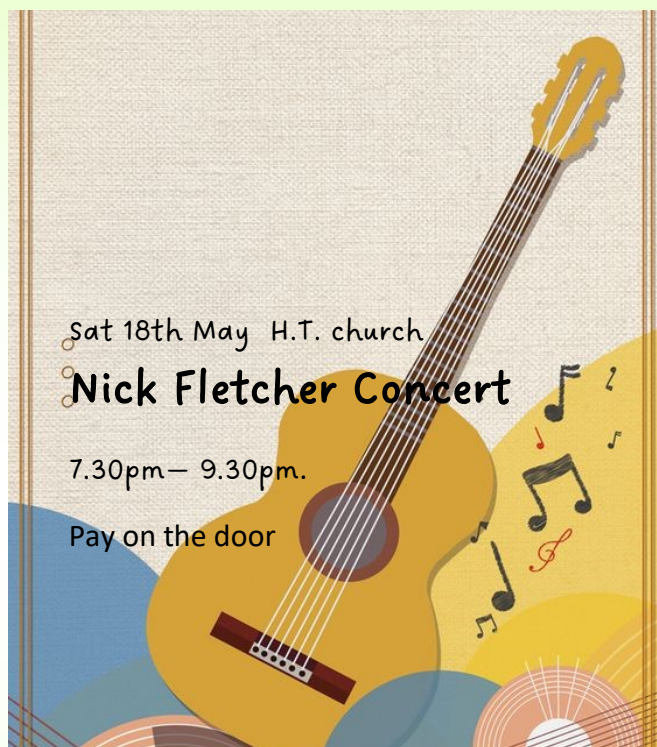


### Stations of the Cross

Good Friday, 29th March  
2pm

St. John's Church

An opportunity to quietly re-trace Jesus's agonising journey carrying the cross to his crucifixion.



Sat 18th May H.T. church

### Nick Fletcher Concert

7.30pm – 9.30pm.

Pay on the door

### All-age communion services

These are held at 10am on the first Sunday each month at Holy Trinity and the second Sunday at St. John's.



Children and young people take a more active part in these services and at Holy

Trinity the music is often led by a small band. Of course everyone is very welcome at all our services and it would be great to have new band players!

# Worship at Holy Trinity and St. John's

Both churches are open during the week for private prayer:

Holy Trinity 10am-4.30pm Mon—Sat

St. John's 10am - 4pm Mon—Thurs

*Still no 8am Communion Services on Sundays for the time being but check on the website .*



## March

**Holy Trinity**      **St. John's**

Sun 17th  
10am Parish Communion

Sun 24th  
10am Palm Sunday  
Parish Communion

Holy Week

Mon 25th  
7pm *Chrim Eucharist at Sheffield Cathedral*

Tues 26th  
7.30pm Wholeness and Healing service

Wed 27th  
10am Eucharist  
7.30pm Celtic Eucharist

Thur 28th  
Maundy Thursday Liturgy

Fri 29th  
10am Good Friday  
Morning Prayer  
10.30am Start of ecumenical Walk of Witness, ending with a short service at Mother of God, RC.



2pm Stations of the Cross

6.30pm Choir sing 'The Cross of Christ'

Sat 30th No services

Sun 31st  
8am Holy Communion  
10am Choral Eucharist




## April

**Holy Trinity**      **St. John's**

Sun 7th  
10am All-age Communion

Sun 14th  
10am All-age Communion

Sun 21st  
10am Parish Communion

Sun 28th  
10am Parish Communion

## May

**Holy Trinity**      **St. John's**

Sun 5th  
10am All-age Communion

Sun 12th  
10am All-age Communion  
6.30pm Taize Service

Sun 19th  
10am Parish Communion

Sun 26th  
10am Parish Communion

## June

**Holy Trinity**      **St. John's**

Sun 2nd  
10am All-age Communion

Sun 9th  
10am All-age Communion  
6.30pm Wholeness and Healing Service

Sun 16th  
10am Parish Communion

## Wednesday Morning Communion

Services will be held at 10am in Holy Trinity, EXCEPT on the first Wed (M.U.) in each month, which will be at St. John's.



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## Vernal Equinox

The time at which the sun crosses the plane of the equator towards the relevant hemisphere, making day and night of equal length. The sun's rays are perpendicular to the equator. It occurs about March 21<sup>st</sup> in the northern hemisphere.

'On September 21<sup>st</sup> and March 21<sup>st</sup> the sun is vertically overhead (at noon) at the equator. These days are termed the *equinoxes* (Latin *Aequus*, equal; *Nox*, night), because...all parts of the world have equal day and equal night, *ie.* twelve hours daylight and twelve hours darkness.' (The Foundations of Geography Book 1, D. M. Preece and H. R. B. Wood)

It is a historic marker of seasonal change. The March equinox, unofficially marking the Spring season, is traditionally observed as a time of rebirth and renewal.

Change and Spring: a time for optimism. Days will gradually become longer. Crops will be sown in expectation of later harvest. Our Spring bulbs are pushing through tender green shoots. We look forward to gentle Spring days, and sunny Summer.

**Claire Justice**

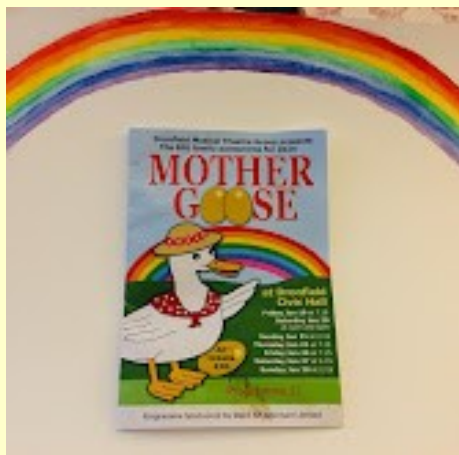


## 99th St John's Brownies

The Pack *nearly* closed at Christmas... BUT good news... the same leaders have managed to change the venue and time, which was causing a problem through overlapping with badminton. They have moved to Toley All Saints church hall, Mondays 6.30—7.30pm.

Five Rainbows have now moved up to Brownies who continue to enjoy badge work and having fun.

In January both the Rainbows and Brownies enjoyed a lovely night out together at the pantomime, Mother Goose.



*Having fun with a parachute whilst learning social skills!*

Recently three older teenagers have completed their **Young Leaders** qualification.

Photos of the presentation of their certificates will be in the next edition. **Doreen Plumridge**

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The shops are full eggs and bunnies in readiness for Easter. All familiar signs of the wonderful new spring season, of new beginnings, new life. Here are a few ideas for both children and adults to make and enjoy at Easter.

Two delicious recipes from J.Wite...

### 1. CHOCOLATE COCONUT BARS

You will need a 28x18cm (11x7in) rectangular baking tin, greased and base lined.

A 250ml cup measure or measuring jug with millilitre markings

#### For the base

125g(4oz) butter  
 ½ cup brown sugar, firmly packed  
 1cup coconut  
 ½ cup plain flour  
 ½ cup self raising flour  
 1 tablespoon cocoa  
 1 egg, lightly beaten

#### For the icing

1 cup icing sugar  
 1 tablespoon cocoa  
 1 teaspoon soft butter  
 1 tablespoon milk

Preheat the oven to 190deg C

Melt butter over a low heat.

Stir in sugar, coconut, sifted flours and cocoa.

Stir in the egg.

Spread the mixture evenly over the base of the tin.

Bake for about 20 minutes, or until just firm to the touch.

Meanwhile make the icing:

Sift the icing sugar and cocoa into a bowl, stir in the butter and enough milk to make a thick paste.

As soon as the base is cooked spread with the icing. Leave to stand for ten minutes, sprinkle with a little extra coconut and cut into bars. Leave to cool in the tin.

**The eggs have hatched!** Hard boil the eggs, Carefully cut the white and scoop out the yolks. Mash the yolk with butter and season,

(add curry powder if liked!). Pile back into the white 'shell' and replace rest of white. Decorate with bits of carrot for feet and nose. Use currants for eyes.



This very simple Easter garden uses things from the garden. With a plastic tray base, the plant pot makes a wonderful empty tomb and is covered with soil and a layer of moss or grass.

Sticks and stones complete the lovely effect.

### 2. LEMON HAZE

Grated rind and juice of 1 lemon

1 lemon jelly (135g)

4 medium eggs separated

100g (4oz) caster sugar

150mls (¼ pint) hot water

Dissolve the jelly in the hot water, then add the lemon rind and juice. Set aside until just beginning to set.

Whisk the egg yolks until light and fluffy.

Add the jelly mixture and whisk together well.

Whisk the egg whites until stiff.

When the egg and jelly mixture is beginning to set fold in the egg whites and refrigerate until fully set.



### Paper Bag Bunny

Speaks for itself... Stuff bag with screwed up paper, tie the string tightly about half way up and squeeze the two corners to look like ears. Tie down the middle

and fasten round the other string. Complete with a cotton wool or tissue tail.

### 'Balloon Eggs'

You'll a packet of 'oval' balloons a dish of glue and some thick wool or string - various colours.

DON'T over inflate the balloons – better smaller, (see picture).

Paste the balloon and wrap round with wool, making a vertical framework first.

When dry, pop the balloon!



Did you know that Easter eggs are hollow because the tomb was empty?



# NEWS FROM MILLHOUSES METHODIST CHURCH



*Greetings to our local community this Springtime and Easter.*

A big thank you to you all for your wonderful support of our 2023 Christmas Tree Festival. We were delighted to welcome over 240 local schoolchildren on organized visits, many of whom then brought their families along to the weekend public openings. Your gifts enabled us to send a substantial donation to St Wilfrid’s Centre to support its valuable work.

**Some forthcoming dates:** *(further information on our website [www.millhousesmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.millhousesmethodistchurch.org.uk))*

Mothering Sunday March 10th 10.30am Preacher: Mr John Wilkins  
Easter Sunday March 31st 10.30am Preacher: Revd Graham Wassell

**Tuesday Club dates** *(all welcome to our meetings which start at 2.00pm):*

March 5th St Wilfrid’s Centre Ruth Moore  
March 19th History Tour of Sheffield, Part 2 Martin Naylor  
April 9th The ‘Support Dogs’ Charity  
April 23rd Fraud -The Secret Crime Andy Foster (South Yorkshire Police)  
May 7th My love of books Lorraine Shiels-Wright

## And now some thoughts on ‘From the old things to the new’:

Most people say during the year ‘Where has this year gone to’? It seems to change from the old year to the new year much quicker than when we were younger! Unfortunately, it is one thing (beside the weather!) that we cannot do anything about. If the past year has not been very kind, then we hope that the new year will be kinder to us.

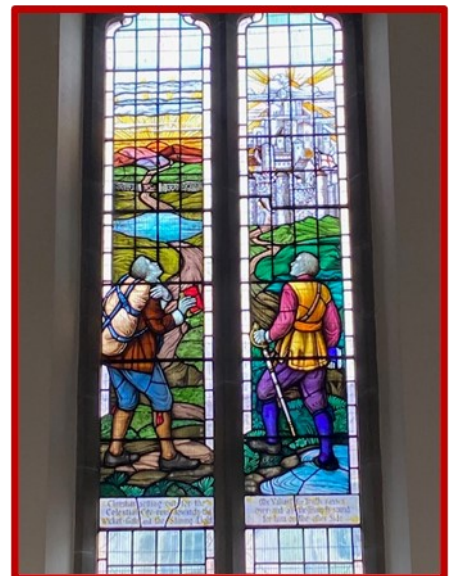
Some make New Year resolutions which they hope to keep but so often they fall by the wayside and go back to the old things. Nothing stays the same forever; often we don’t like change and the thought of new rules, an area or a change of person in charge (to name but a few) make a person very unsettled.

As Methodists we mark the beginning of each new year by holding a Covenant service which provides members with the opportunity to renew their “contract” or “agreement” with God. This covenant is a personal one where individuals renew their commitment to sustaining and enriching their personal relationship with God.

This year our Covenant Service occurred during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and we invited members of other local Churches to join us. It was a wonderful celebration where members of the Church of England and Methodist churches worshipped together. The Church was full and the singing even better than usual!

Millhouses Methodist Church is supported by a small number of committed Christians but we can sometimes feel overwhelmed by the day-to-day work of discipleship in our Church and community. However, the joint services and activities during the Week of Christian Unity remind us that together the Churches in Abbeydale and Millhouses can make a real difference to individuals and those around us by sharing resources and energy. More importantly, it is evidence that we are not alone as we face the future.

So, on we go ‘from the old things to the new’ and, whatever your faith or background, you are welcome to join us. With God’s help to sustain us, we step boldly into the future with renewed confidence and commitment.



**Millhouses Methodist’s Pilgrim’s Progress window – stepping on towards the Holy City.**



## Invitation to GREG's Green Supper Party

GREG, the Grove Road Environment Group, would like to invite you to their Green Supper Party on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. It will take place at the Holy Trinity Church Hall, from 6.30 pm. Much has been written recently about the exciting food scene in Sheffield. The focus of our Green Supper Party will be on good, sustainable food, in a variety of ways. There will be speakers from three organisations developing different approaches to developing the food culture in Sheffield, alongside a tasty supper.

Rachael Treharne will be speaking about **ShefFood** a broad partnership of public, community, and business organisations across the city, working together to create a more sustainable food system for Sheffield. She will give us an overview of Sheffield's Food Plan launched in 2023; and highlight what we can do as individuals, households and small groups to help build a food system in Sheffield that works for everyone.

Many of you may already benefit from **Regather's** deliveries of fruit, vegetables and more. Gareth Roberts and Fran Halsall will talk about Regather's goal of improving food for Sheffield and the many ways in which they try to do this, wherever possible working with local growers and producers. Founded in 2010, they now run an organic farm, and many other community projects, as well as the box scheme. Last year they were runners up in the BBC Food and Farming Awards

Of course, we couldn't possibly invite you to an event about food without laying on what we hope will be an excellent supper for you. **Open Kitchen Social Club** has been providing catering for a range of events in and around the city since 2014. From weekly lunches catering for asylum seekers and refugees to weddings, baptisms, funerals and many public events, they provide occupation and training for a group of refugees, asylum seekers and volunteers. They have planned a supper of curry-based dishes, (mild seasoning), which will be served beside the different speakers. *All the food will be gluten free and vegan.*

The Church Hall is not licensed to sell alcohol, but we encourage you to bring bottles of your choice.

There will also be some table quizzes as well as an exhibition about food in Sheffield.

Tickets for the event are £15.00 per person. To reserve your tickets, please email [greg@emaildodo.com](mailto:greg@emaildodo.com) stating the number of tickets you require **and including your phone number**. Tables seat six people.

For further information, contact **GREG** at [greg@emaildodo.com](mailto:greg@emaildodo.com)




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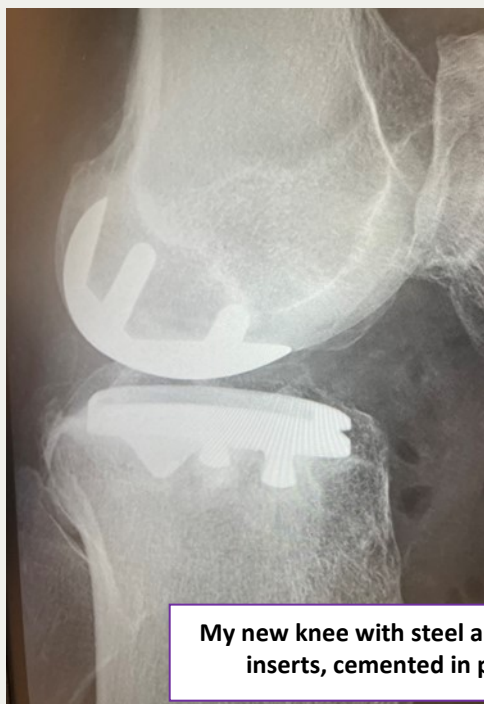
## **New Year, New Beginnings..... NEW KNEE!**

I spent most of last year (2023) with pain in my right leg, which progressively got worse as the year progressed.

In desperation, I made an appointment to see a knee specialist in May 2023, recommended by one of my tennis playing friends. He had had his knee operated on some seven years previously by the same surgeon and was still running around the tennis courts like a youngster, (he recently celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday).

After having X-rays taken, I was told that I had osteoarthritis, (wear and tear of the cartilage and bone), and the most suitable treatment would be a 'half knee replacement, (or unicompartmental knee replacement to give it its correct title). I was told this should heal quicker than a full knee replacement and would enable me to resume my tennis and walking hobbies as soon as possible.

It was suggested that the operation might be carried out before Christmas so that I could recuperate over the winter period, when I would naturally be less active. Come December I had nearly given up hope until one day I happened to phone up and they said could I come in to Thornbury Private Hospital on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023.



**My new knee with steel and plastic inserts, cemented in place.**

I had heard that the food was good at Thornbury so I was looking forward to some gourmet meals and a bit of a rest whilst I was in hospital, but I was operated on at 4pm and was only offered sandwiches that evening. The next day I thought I would make up for it with a full cooked breakfast, but alas there were problems in the kitchen so I had to make do with a bacon sandwich.....and then I was discharged that afternoon – so no gourmet meals (and not much peace and quiet either)!!

### **So my Christmas present was A NEW KNEE.**

Six weeks later I was signed off by my consultant and told to do all the normal things I had previously been doing – particularly playing tennis and walking – both very social activities. I was told that I couldn't do any harm to the new knee – it would let me know if I was doing too much!

***I am still exercising to fully build up and strengthen my leg muscles, but very much feel 'nearly back to normal' (whatever normal is)!***

**Andrew Horsfield**



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## Rejuvenating the Green Belt

The Dore Village Society decided last year to ‘rejuvenate’ our appreciation of the Green Belt which is wrapped round developed Dore and which reaches out to the National Park boundary. It recognised that viewing this land through the prism of Green Belt planning law didn’t do it full justice. Planners only recognise the value of designated Green Belt land to the extent that it properly fulfils one or more of the five grounds for designating land as Green Belt, and these are planning aims, such as encouraging the fuller development of existing land within the already developed city or preventing the coalescence of one developed area into another. What DVS wants to do is to look at the value of the designated Green Belt in a more positive way by truly trying to pin down its distinguishing characteristics.



*Dore from the Peak District*

So a small team has been working on a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Dore’s Green Belt to see that land in a richer way as a provider of significant benefits to the local and wider community than those arising purely from planning controls. We have asked ourselves – under headings like Landscape Character, Sense of Place, Biodiversity, Watercourses and Flood Relief and Recreation and Wellbeing – what benefits does our Green Belt land provide or (in the jargon) what *ecosystem services* does it perform for us. So, for example, amongst the beneficial things provided directly or indirectly by nature to human life are food, clean water, pollination, biodiversity, recreational opportunities and a sense of place.

However, it is now even possible to put a monetary value on nature and its ecosystem services in the new discipline of identifying and valuing Natural Capital. The famous economist Sir Dieter Helm has written that **“The Green Belt is an asset that should be on the nation’s balance sheet”**.

Another way of valuing these natural ecosystem benefits beyond simply describing the services involved is to place a value system on them, even one expressed in money. Yes, in today’s world you cannot expect everyone to accept Wordsworth’s spiritual valuation of Nature:

**“One impulse from a vernal wood  
May teach you more of man,  
Of moral evil and of good  
Than all the sages can.”**

The concept of Natural Capital is gaining ground in the UK. According to the Treasury’s guidance on a Natural Capital Approach, natural capital includes certain stocks of the elements of nature that have value to society, such as woodlands, rivers, land and minerals, and biodiversity and some non-use values, such as the value people place on the existence of particular habitats or species or the sense of place residing in certain landscapes. The Treasury - believe it or not – argues that understanding nature as a set of assets that benefit people and society in all kinds of ways can support better decision-making. At a more local level a ground-breaking evidence paper produced by Natural Capital experts in July 2021 for the South Yorkshire Combined Mayoralty demonstrated that the monetary value of the benefits provided by natural capital across South Yorkshire as a whole are £550m per annum with an asset value of (present value) of £18bn over 50 years. Ironically the South Yorkshire value of food production annually is outweighed by the cost of agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, which suggests we are right to stress the non-agricultural ecosystem benefits of our Green Belt.



So, in our intended Dore Green Infrastructure Strategy we will try to pump new life into our appreciation of the landscapes on our doorstep in a manner to satisfy not only the appetites of our nature-lovers, but also of our city planners, and of those who understand the language of eco-system services and even of the moneymen. We shall be poetic, scientific and money-wise and occasionally a little spiritual.

**Christopher Pennell 17/01/2024**

# Regular Parish Activities – for special events see p.14



**Holy Trinity & St. John's**  
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**Contact:** Amber Forsyth



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Mon 4.30pm **Rainbows** —All Saints Totley 249 4113  
Mon 6.30pm **Brownies** — All Saints Totley  
07713254723  
Tues 5.30pm **Rainbows** — H.T. Church Hall  
235 0370




## Trefoil Guild

Meets on the third Monday each month  
in the Guild Room at St. John's at  
7.30pm  
**Contact:** Pat Jackson 281 7557



Parish Centre, Dobcroft Road  
Monday 6.30 pm Cubs  
8.00 pm Explorers  
Thursday 7.00 pm Scouts  
Friday 6.10 pm Beavers  
**Contact:** Andrew Bullock (Group Scout Leader)  
ajbullock@blueyonder.co.uk  
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## Handbells

Mondays 1.30 pm 94 Room St. John's  
Contact Margaret Ibbetson 236 4184  
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## CHURCH CHOIR & MUSIC GROUP

**Choir:** Practices Fri 7.30—8.45pm at St. John's  
Sun 9.30am before the 10am service—see  
calendar p13 for venue!.

**Music Group:** Leads worship 10am H.T. first  
Sunday of each month. Practice  
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**Contacts:** Mary Cobbold MA FRCO (chm) 07721 594095  
Alan East MA ARCO 07535 595044



## Come and have a go.. INDOOR Carpet BOWLS

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## St. John's Snooker Club



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## Summer Edition of TRIO

**DEADLINE** for articles  
**Midnight Sunday 5th May 2024**  
**Published Friday 7th June 2024**



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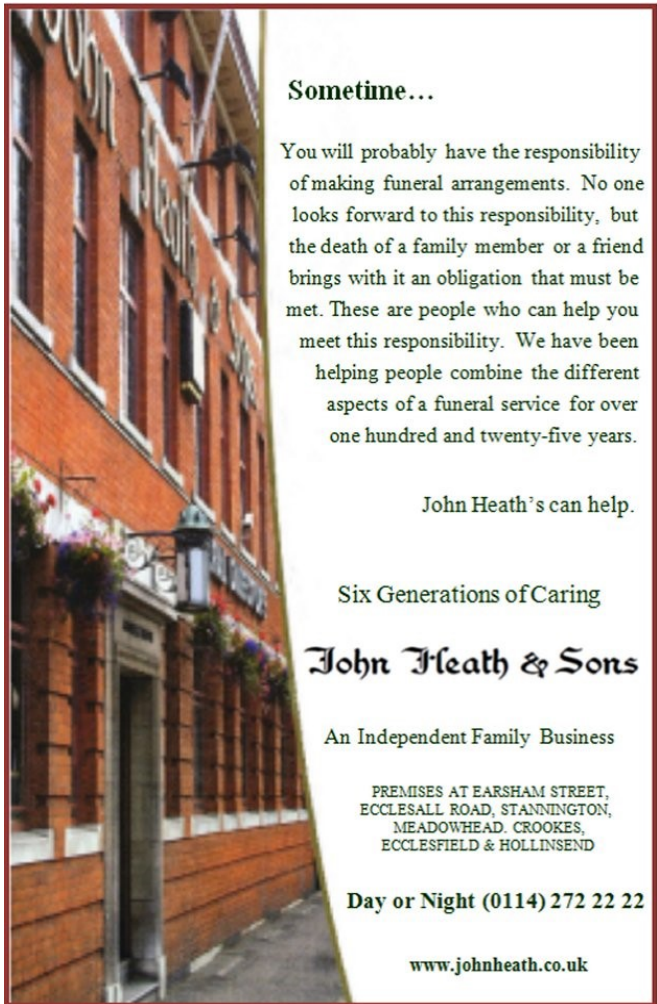
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