

trio

Parish Magazine of Abbeydale and
Millhouses

Easter 2021

Parish of Abbeydale and Millhouses

Loving God

Valuing People

Caring for His World

We invite you to worship with us

St. John the Evangelist, Abbeydale S17 3LE and Holy Trinity, Millhouses S7 2GY

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Under normal circumstances.....

MAIN SUNDAY SERVICES
alternately in Holy Trinity and
St. John's - *SEE PAGE 27*

8.00 Holy Communion

10.00 Parish Communion

usually with music

This service is currently being 'Zoomed'

See church website for details

All-Age services first Sunday in the month

WEDNESDAY - HOLY COMMUNION

10.00 Holy Trinity

10.15 St John's - First Wednesday in the month

FOR other CHURCH EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES SEE PAGE 26

For Baptisms, weddings and funerals

Please contact the Parish Priest 236 2838

Bookings for church buildings, church halls and
Parish Centre contact Bev Ramsey 249 0377

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CHARITY NUMBER: 1142485

From the vicarage.....

I have many happy memories of school assemblies, I often thanked God for the wisdom and probing questions I would be asked! As a curate, taking a first Easter assembly, I was (I thought) well prepared, talking about Easter eggs with my large chocolate visual aid! Then came the question "is that egg alive or dead?" Well it's made from ground cocoa beans, and then cooked up in the chocolate factory. The beans were alive, but the chocolate egg is definitely dead. Now let's carry on and look at this egg from our local shop, I suppose it looks dead too, ("especially if it's been boiled!", came the shout), this is going well! But if you visit a farm where they breed chickens, the mother hen will be allowed to sit on some of the newly laid eggs to keep them warm. Although they look dead, often in a week or so, you will hear the quiet sound, chip, chip, then suddenly the eggs will break and out will pop – a baby chick! (Curate produces picture of chick breaking out). New life, out of something that seemed to be dead!! Stunned silence, then massive spontaneous applause

Easter is when there is new life all around us, bulbs burst into new life, we see fields with lambs bouncing with fresh vitality, leafless trees after looking dead over winter begin new life. Flowers, lambs, trees, all signs of fresh life in springtime. Like the Easter egg, the lambs and flowers are used as symbols for new life at Easter.

Easter, the most important festival in the Christian calendar, the time when we journey to the cross, we think about what happened to Jesus. Jesus died, his friends were devastated. They knew he was dead, and they thought that was the end. In those days, dead bodies were placed in a cave, they placed Jesus in a cave near Jerusalem, and rolled a huge stone across the entrance to stop anyone getting in. Picture the scene: a dead body, hidden in a cave in the lifeless rock, and a stone blocking the entrance, emphasising the deadness of everything. That was on a Friday, on the Sunday, some women came very early in the morning to finish the care that was given to the body when it was buried. They found that someone had already rolled the stone away. One of the women called Mary Magdalene stayed behind at the tomb because she was crying. She saw a man standing there and slowly realised it was Jesus. Jesus, who had been dead, was now alive again! The cave which had been a place of death was now filled with new life. New life at Easter. **That's why the Easter egg reminds us of Jesus, out of something that seemed to be dead has come NEW LIFE.**

As we think of 'New Life' ... a new life beckons for me as I contemplate retirement.

I officially retire on 31st May from being Vicar of the Parish of Abbeydale and Millhouses. I know it may be a sign of growing older but the past 15 years seem to have gone by in a flash. But the timing is right, although I retire as Vicar, you never retire as a Priest. In 2005 I came as Vicar of Holy Trinity Millhouses and I retire as Vicar of The Parish of Abbeydale and Millhouses.



As a family Millhouses has been a wonderful place to live. It has been our home for almost 16 years. Steph and Tim have grown up and moved away from here, and like any family, we have had our own times of joy and sadness but we have always felt that the vicarage is our home, a place where we have been able to welcome family and friends.

I will leave with a mountain of memories, of lovely people, very special moments, lots of hard-working deeply committed parishioners in so many areas of church life. I have had many special colleagues and wonderful joy of church members themselves following their call to ordination.

One of the greatest privileges of being a Parish Priest is the sharing in times of great joy and celebration, and in times of sadness. To join people together in holy matrimony, to welcome children into the family of God at baptism, and to commit loved ones to God at the end of their earthly journey. I thank you for allowing me to share in all these times and more with you.

Peter



Chickens requiring new home!

Due to Peter retiring he needs to re-home his four chickens.

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If you are interested or know anyone who might be please let Peter know, 0114 2362838.

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New life for Sue Gilpin!



In January 2020, Sue Gilpin was found unconscious on the floor of her home in Millhouses. Thankfully, a friend had raised the alarm and the next thing Sue knew was waking up in the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, not knowing why she was there. Following a lumbar puncture and MRI scan, doctors are still not sure what caused this 'mystery' illness. She spent two weeks recovering in hospital then another two in Newfield care home before returning home on 12 February. This meant that Sue spent her birthday at the end of January away from home. Not the best of birthdays as she had a long, cold day visiting Rotherham general hospital for a routine appointment. The saving grace was the abundance of cards and flowers waiting for her on her return.

After such a dramatic illness and marvellous recovery, Sue is grateful to be home and well. She wanted to share her story in TRIO because we are writing about 'new life'. She said, "If it helps someone else ... we never know what is round the corner." When asked about how Sue's life has changed since her illness, she said, "A lot. I feel as if I've had my 'wings clipped' and can't do what I used to do, but I am very grateful that I am still alive ... I'm just glad I'm still here and appreciate every day. As Captain Tom said, 'Tomorrow will be a good day' and I live by these words".

"I am so very thankful to the Royal Hallamshire Hospital and everyone that has helped me along the way – my family, friends, all at the churches, neighbours and carers and our wonderful clergy team. It is like having a new 'lease of life', after returning home following my life-threatening illness, and I am grateful I am here and 'someone must be looking after me.'

This year Sue was pleased to celebrate her birthday at home. Although limited by the restrictions of the pandemic, she was safe and warm in her own home, her neighbour brought her Sunday lunch, she had more cards and flowers and her sister and brother-in-law visited.

We look forward to seeing Sue out and about again in the community when the weather and the Covid restrictions are lifted. Hopefully, next year when Sue has a 'special' birthday, she will be able to celebrate it properly, with friends and in good health.

From a live chat with Sue by Angie Lauener



Peter Quarrell

After more years than we dare to count, Peter has decided to retire as TRIO's advertising manager and treasurer. He has done an amazing job and enabled us to continue our mission of being self-sufficient, (i.e. funded from advertising revenue), and delivering the magazine to every home and business in the Parish.

We owe him an enormous debt of gratitude and hope he enjoys his retirement. *Editor*

(Anyone interested in placing an ad, please see details at the bottom of p.2)

Ann Smedley's friend's moving poem is a stark reminder that for many each new day can be a huge challenge, . Though it was written at Christmas, sadly little has changed and the situation could be the same at Easter.

Face to face at Christmas - in a care home

But —
how shall I meet you
face-to-face? I have had
so little practice these last nine months. I
see others behind a mask, a screen, voices
muffled, eyes veiled,
gestures curtailed.

Sometimes they take me to a
glass screen and I see
people — sometimes children —
(do I know them? Are they
mine?) There is
pointing and waving and
mouths opening and shutting like
fish. Dutifully I
wave back.

Sometimes words, half remembered phrases
flit through my mind.

"A voice cries in the wilderness,
prepare..." But
what shall I prepare? I
no longer have my kitchen. I have
nothing to prepare with.

A harsh voice from the past invades
"You're a naughty, naughty girl,
no hugs for you today,
no, not one!"
I would say sorry, but I
can't remember what I've done.

A silent emptiness occupies my
mind. Who can fill the
space around me? Who can
quicken the silence?
They say I will meet you
tomorrow, but I panic, scared I won't
know you. I'll disappoint.

And yet, - the promise is there.
"You shall see me face-to-face."
This I remember. This I claim. And
I sense that in all I have lost,
I am most surely
found. That in the waiting,
I am already met.

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Social Distancing

— or not ?

The poem in the adjacent column reflects on the effects of 'social distancing' which we are all constantly urged to do by the government. In a recent newsletter from Sheffield Cathedral, the Acting Dean, Revd. Canon Geoffrey Harbord, said this.....

Preaching in the Cathedral on the feast of the Baptism of Christ, **I said that the Cathedral would not practice "social distance."** Having made that deliberately provocative statement, I went on to say that the Cathedral practices physical, not social, distance. There is a world of difference between physical distance which we all must still observe to keep everyone safe, and social distance which is not part of Christ's gospel.

What the Cathedral proclaims is the overwhelming love of God which breaks down all barriers of distance and brings us all together as we build Christ's kingdom. Even in lock-down, we have been able through our worship and continued service still to carry this out and I am deeply grateful to my fellow clergy and to all the Cathedral staff and volunteers for their immensely hard work in these unprecedented circumstances. By God's grace, we enter this new year confident that he will continue to bless us in all our work for him.

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KEEP IN TOUCH

My New Life - Liz Frost

Sunday 24th January.

A cold frosty afternoon in late January, still in the middle of "Lockdown", still no date for my inoculation against the terrifying Covid 19! I look around the house for any more drawers I could tidy, yes plenty but the enthusiasm is draining. Enough of feeling sorry for myself as there is so much to look forward to. Spring is around the corner, new buds will start to appear and with it a new sense of beginnings. This is where I turn my attention to the prospect of my new start in life, that of becoming a grandmother, only one week and five days to go before the due date! Am I excited? Yes of course I am, but like with anything new there is apprehension, a new job, a move, even a new haircut all brings with it a heightened sense of anxiety. Will my daughter, Alison, cope with the birth? Will my grandchild be fit and healthy? Will Luke and Alison cope with all the demands of parenthood? Will I and my husband be the best grandparents in the whole wide world? Well maybe if I go and sort out a few more drawers I will feel better prepared!

Wednesday 3rd February

I have to admit Richard and I did go over to Manchester today, principally to deliver some essentials and have a walk, (two by two), with Ali and Luke. My heart leapt with joy seeing Ali in full pregnancy but after a 6K walk, (which she was determined to do), I became slightly concerned how tired she was at the end.

Friday 5th February.



Well this is a strange sort of day, it is the due date of the long-anticipated birth of my grandchild. No news of impending contractions, no mad dash to Manchester to look after their very excitable 10-month-old border collie. Basically it

feels like Lent, the long wait, the preparation, the abstention, (for me, alcohol, in case I have to drive!), the continuous nagging worry if everything will be alright. I had a look in their bedroom at our home yesterday and realised I haven't prepared for this new arrival at all, except for some baby wipes and a baby bath!! Cot and changing mat will be ordered soon. But with restrictions still going on it seems an age before they will be able to come and stay as a family. On the other-hand infection rates are going down, inoculations are being administered at an amazing rate, so, maybe I should order these relatively essential things ASAP! Ok that's a job for tomorrow, it will keep me occupied.

Also, my daily calls to my daughter are obviously getting more and more irritating for her, "Mother you will be the first to know when I do go into Labour" she retorts! I must restrain on the telephone calls, maybe a text would be better!

Sunday 7th February

Still hanging on in there and snow is coming so I am now concerned about getting over to Manchester! Ok, now praying the baby stays nice and warm in the womb until storm Darcy is over! Did I order the cot-bed and changing mat? Well no, been so busy in this lockdown period, (not sure with what), but have ordered a topper (never knew they existed but it is a piece that you put on top of a chest of drawers which you then put the changing mat on!). I am not quite convinced why you cannot put a changing mat on the bed or on the floor and change the nappy from there, (as we all used to do), but life changes so who am I to argue about it!!

Wednesday 10th February.

Well still no signs, the long await continues. Richard and I go over to Manchester to support them with another 6K walk, I'm exhausted. Ali looks as though she could do another 6K! The good news is she will be induced on the 17th February, so we now know that will be the date!

Saturday 13th February.

My sleep ended at 4am this morning, not sure why but I was wide awake! I was downstairs having a cup of coffee when the phone rang. it was Luke saying Alison had been in labour all night and they were off to the hospital, can I can come over and look after the dog! Well it took me 10 minutes to pack and I was off, -6 degrees over the Snake Pass, (I took it easy), arrived at 8.15am to a very excitable puppy! At 8.30am I took the call that my grandson had been born, Jacob Anthony Tanker came into this world weighing 6lb 11oz's. It was then that all the emotions and tensions let go and knowing that my daughter and grandson were well left me in tears. Poor Nelson, (their dog), obviously realised the release of tension and bounded on to the settee to give me a huge lick and cuddle! It was a surreal time knowing that life will now take on a different meaning. A change in direction, new life, new beginnings. We all face these challenges on a regular basis, but with faith, charity and love, (even from an excitable young border collie), we can face them in the knowledge that we are not alone in accepting change to the direction of our lives. A trust in God, for me, will show the way.

Sunday 14th February

Just over a day old, Jacob slept in my arms through his first zoom service at the Parish of Abbeydale and Millhouses whilst I co-hosted the service from Manchester. New life, new beginnings have now started yet one thing remains the same whether you are a believer in God or not, everyone has the love for new life.



Liz & Richard with Jacob

Vaccination story

I was at my Mum's house when suddenly and unexpectedly I found myself watching her have her Covid jab. I was so moved by the events of that day that I found myself writing poetry!

Visitation 26/1/2021

On a cold, dull, wet and wintry afternoon, two visitors appeared, unexpected -

strode purposefully

swept in

cool box

sharps bin

essential checks

arm exposed

aged 90

history made

line crossed:

Before Covid AstraZeneca Dispensed.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

jab done

Supersonic Angels

swept on.

On this day, another line was crossed.

One hundred thousand not so lucky.

Our need for messengers of hope goes on.

Angie Lauener



Vaccination story - 2

John Greensmith, (of 'accordion' fame in Millhouses), rang in early January to say he'd had his first 'jab' and wanted to share the wonderful news. He was ecstatic and so thankful, echoing the feeling of so many of us, for this miracle of science.

Editor

Martyn Foster Electrical



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A lockdown pregnancy...

After three months of attempting to hide sickness and exhaustion, and having just about run out of excuses for why I could not attend our usual social events, the time had finally arrived – we were able to announce my pregnancy. One week later, pregnant women across the country were advised to shield for a minimum of 12 weeks.

Like so many parents, we never pretended to know what pregnancy would be like, but nothing could have prepared us for the experience we had. Having reached the second trimester, feeling far more energetic and well than I had for so long, we were predominantly confined to our own four walls. This of course was the same for millions across the UK and beyond, and each of us in our different ways was deprived of the people, places and things we held most dear. The remainder of my scans had to be attended alone: my brain would fog up trying to retain the information I was given to pass on to my husband, who would have to wait quietly in hot cars attempting to work when he could whilst wishing he could be there with me. But every step of the way, we knew we were creeping ever closer to the arrival of our little one.

The world began to open up a little more, and close loved ones were able to sit socially distanced with us outdoors. Friends and family alike arranged online gatherings and checked in regularly via text, calls and little gifts dropped on the doorstep. Things seemed to be settling and we had around a month left to prepare for our arrival.

No one pregnancy or birth is the same, however, and our little one chose to make her appearance a month ahead of schedule. Her health would have to be monitored on a separate ward, and then a separate hospital, all the while with my husband and I scheduling in our allotted time to be together on hospital grounds amid a pandemic. For the first weeks of her life, our baby had rarely seen our faces without masks. I look back now and wonder how we just took it in our stride.



I think in part it was to do with the wonderful NHS staff who supported us each step of the way, and in even more part the fact that we would do whatever it took to get us all home together as a family.

After three weeks, our baby was officially discharged and we have been home together ever since. Speaking with other parents in similar situations, many of us share the same concerns – will our little ones develop social skills more slowly? Will they become shy around anyone outside our support bubble? How old will they be before others can finally meet them? Whatever circumstances people find themselves in at this time, it certainly helps to have people to talk to.

But when we wake up each morning, these questions are the last things on our mind. The tiny face by my side will be lifting up her head to give us her most charming grin and, in that moment, that is all we see. The babies of 2020 and 2021 may not have had the most conventional of introductions to the world, but we are forever grateful for the tiny human who gave us a whole new life, just as she begins hers.

The writer of this article wishes to remain anonymous

**YOUR NEW LIFE
STARTS TODAY.
DON'T WASTE IT
TRYING TO GET
BACK WHAT WAS
TAKEN AWAY.**

New Life in Nature

The beautifully picturesque village of Grassington in Upper Wharfedale in the Yorkshire Dales was given a new identity last year when it was transformed into "Darrowby", the setting for the excellent remake of the television series of "All Creatures Great and Small" (shown on Channel 5 in Sept, 2020).

The TV programmes were originally inspired by the books of a veterinary surgeon, who as a young, newly qualified vet, took up his first post as an assistant vet in a country practice in North Yorkshire.

James Alfred Wight OBE FRCVS was better known by his pen name of James Herriot. Born in Sunderland in 1916, he moved to Glasgow with his parents and grew up there. He attended Glasgow Veterinary College which he graduated from in 1939. Shortly afterwards, he moved back to England, to Yorkshire where he practiced for almost 50 years as a veterinary surgeon. He married and settled with his wife and family and lived and worked in North Yorkshire, with the exception of his wartime service in the RAF, until his death in 1995.

His books are based on his memoirs and experiences working as a young vet in the North Yorkshire countryside for his boss Siegfried Farnon and his brother Tristan Farnon. The stories are full of hilarious and moving tales and these books have been translated into many languages and millions of copies have been sold worldwide.

James loved his work and the environment in which he worked. It is apparent in his books as he describes the landscape, the changing seasons and the very nature of the countryside which surrounds him with great feeling and passion.

He marvelled at the wonder and miracle of new life from the trees and plants in the hedgerows, country lanes and fields, to the lambs, calves and foals he often helped into the world.

In the third of his books, "**Let Sleeping Vets Lie**", he writes of spring lambing: *"This was my second spring in the Dales but it was like the one before - and all the springs after. The kind of spring that is, that a country vet knows; the din of lambing pens, the bass rumble of the ewes and the high, insistent bawling of the lambs. This for me, has always heralded the end of winter and the beginning of something new. This and the piercing Yorkshire wind and the hard, bright sunshine flooding the bare hillsides."*



He continues, *"Despite the wind cutting over the straw bales into my face I found myself grinning down at the scene; this was always the best part, the wonder that was always fresh, the miracle you couldn't explain."*

Today, farmers and vets alike still marvel and wonder at the miracle of new life. Amidst all the uncertainty in our lives, it is a constant and something which gives us all a sense of wellbeing and joy when we see or touch or smell or hear the sounds of new and renewed life this springtime.



ARL

New life for plastic bottles!

Plastic waste is the scourge of our generation and we are constantly being reminded of the need to cut down on its use in order to save our planet. However millions of plastic bottles are still being produced and used in the production of soft drinks. Many families buy several 2-litre bottles of drinks a week - just adding to the waste problem.

Abbeydale Rotary heard that Killamarsh Infants' School were desperate to have a greenhouse and get their children into gardening but couldn't afford a traditional one. Through Rotary International, Abbeydale Rotary also discovered that, using 2-litre plastic bottles, eco-friendly greenhouses can be built.



So many people got involved in collecting bottles — hundreds of them! Parents, Rotarians and members of the Killamarsh Conservation Group spent several mornings in school cutting the tops off the bottles and threading them on rods. Rotarians from Abbeydale and Eckington bought and built the frame and helped create the garden. The children then got to work planting vegetables and flowers.



As this project was nearing completion in 2019, Abbeydale Rotary was planning to get started on another bottle greenhouse project at Eckesall School, but sadly Covid-19 intervened. Hopefully work will get underway in the summer.

So — watch out for requests for 2-litre plastic bottles!



Extracted and edited, with permission of the editor, from Abbeydale Rotary's Newsletter.



Giving What We Can

Parish Charitable Giving 2020

The Parish has a policy of allocating 10% of its voluntary income to charitable objects. In addition,

appeals were made to church members and the community for special appeals throughout the year. We thank everyone for their generous giving:

Cathedral Archer Project:	£2,737
Abrahams Children in Crisis	£2,000
Christian Aid	£1,638
Children's Society	£1,359
DEC Coronavirus Appeal:	£955
Bluebell Wood Hospice:	£250
Chernobyl Children's Lifeline:	£250
Mind the Gap Africa:	£500
Sheffield Young Carers:	£500
St.Wilfrid's Centre:	£500
Ashgate Hospice Chesterfield:	£500
Support Dogs, Sheffield:	£500
Royal British Legion:	£500
Roundabout, Sheffield:	£500
Archbishop of York Youth Trust::	£500
Sheffield Samaritans:	£500
Macmillan cancer Support:	£500
Grace Food Bank:	£25
Total:	£14,214

The Parish also supports the Grace Food Bank with regular collections of food at our church buildings.

We invest in the Sheffield Credit Union to support families to get affordable loans.

We are a Fairtrade Church and, normally, hold regular Traidcraft stall in our churches. (During this last year this has operated on-line).

You are invited to donate to our charitable causes by:

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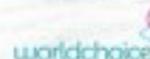
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Fostering and Us!

By Katie Bennett

We are a family of eight - Mum, Dad and six children. Our fostering journey began in December 2016 when I was at a Christingle service. The lady next to me asked me, quite out of the blue, why we didn't foster?

Fostering was something my husband had mentioned a few times over the years, but with four birth children I felt our lives were busy enough! However, the idea grew and as our youngest was starting secondary school, we felt inspired to start the assessment process to foster. The assessment process lasted eight months and we were approved in October 2017.

As you can imagine, the fostering system is complex and every situation is different, so our experience will be different to another foster family.

We started by doing "Support Care" so we had children to stay with us who were already in a foster placement, but whose carers wanted a break. In April 2018 a 9 year old boy came to stay with us for nine days and we loved him from day one! We knew that he was in a "Task" placement which is temporary and he was in need of a permanent home. He became a member of our family in July 2018 and his younger brother, who was living with a different family, came to join us in November, 2019.

Becoming a foster family was something which felt so "right". I strongly believe it was God's will for us to open our home to more children.

The two boys we foster bring a great deal of joy to our family, and it is a new beginning for them. They will remain fostered not adopted and will still have contact with their birth family.

The love of a
family is life's
greatest blessing

Many people comment to me how "lucky" they are to have come to us, but it is important to remember the "loss" they have experienced too - their birth family, home, community, culture.

Becoming foster carers has meant entering a whole new world for my husband and I. We are very well supported by our own Social Worker, and the boys also have their own Social Worker to support them. We get to know many other foster carers, we can attend training and support groups; it is a very welcoming community. We also do our best to understand the complexities of the Care System.

Our boys need a lot of nurturing and support as they missed out on some early childhood experiences, for example, singing nursery rhymes, being read to and imaginary play. Like most children in the Care System, they have experienced trauma.

Before Covid, they enjoyed activities such as football, swimming and horse riding; we can't wait to get back to them.

Fostering has been a blessing to us in many ways and our family is enriched as a result.



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This last year has challenged us all, including the clergy, to re look at our lives.... as well as Peter facing a whole new life in retirement, Gerrie Sturgeon tells us of her new life in London, Mark Brown has become Vicar at Ecclesall and Catherine Staziker starts life as a Parish Priest!

New Beginnings

“Forget the former things; do not dwell in the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”

Isaiah 43 v.18,19

When I moved to London last October I jokingly told friends that I hoped God would open the door wide to point the way to the “what next” or I might miss it. I knew that sometimes God needs us to push on doors to find the right way forward, but at this stage of my life I hoped that the way ahead would be clear. Besides I just felt unsure what my ministry would look like in the future. Leaving Abbeylea and Millhouses parish was always going to be difficult. It was a place where I had flourished, where I had felt loved, where I had been encouraged and where I felt valued. How could I begin again? How could it ever be the same? The big question was “is it simply time to retire?”. Yet I knew that God did not equip me, or the church train me, for me to just hang up my dog collar. In any case I couldn’t stop being a Christian and would therefore be called to serve in some way!

I have been reading Isaiah. This middle section of the book offers such hope and encouragement. And this verse rang out for me – forget the former things – do not dwell in the past. I have been pondering these familiar words. I am sure God does not want me to airbrush those years in Sheffield from my life, but neither does he want me to be fearful of a future without that ministry.



When we stand at the beginning of a new adventure we need to be informed by the past but not constrained by it. How easy it would be in these days of lockdown to put off trying something new, but I recognise that we are at risk of losing our confidence as we retreat into the safety of our own four walls. And yet God is doing a new thing, even today, and we are challenged to perceive it.

How was I to find a new church, or a new ministry that would be faithful to God’s call on my life? Many years ago a friend told me that in her view there were no such things as coincidences – instead we should think of them as “god-incidences”. So here is a set of “god-incidences” that have led me to where I am today. Someone I met dog-walking recommended a small park for Poppy and I to visit, which I probably would not have come across left to my own devices. On the way to the park I passed a church and stopped to read the details on the door about their online services. I probably would not have considered it in normal times as it was a place where I had received a very cool welcome 18 months previously. But there was clearly a new vicar and it would be easy to dip my toe in anonymously via zoom.

To cut a long story short, I have become friends with Rev. Natasha who happens to be the Dean of Women’s ministry. Natasha felt I needed to speak to the Bishop about PTO (Permission to Officiate) whilst waiting to discern where God was calling me to be. I am just waiting for the DBS clearance and I will be ready to work again. The Bishop is putting no pressure on me to rush into any decisions, but has introduced me to three local churches. All have welcomed me and said they would love me to join their teams. But for now I need to wait and pray and listen to God, not in a fearful way about the future but to be sure that I am in step with God and embarking on the adventure he is calling me to.

Yesterday when I walked round my garden I was thrilled to find snowdrops in flower, crocus leaves, and daffodils in bud.



As I write, my garden is covered in a blanket of snow and none of them is visible, but I know they are there and will soon re-appear. So I think of the new beginnings that Isaiah speaks of. We need to open our eyes to perceive them. We can of course only live in the today, but hope for the future can change the way we deal with today.

I miss Sheffield, miss my friends, miss my church, and miss the countryside. But I thank God for bringing me here, firstly to be so close to my family, (a true blessing), but also because I now know that God is quite definitely calling me to go on a new adventure with him. Truly, I can perceive that a new thing is springing up!

Gerrie

Catherine Staziker, our curate for three years, (2012-2015), is on the move again! Catherine has been working voluntarily at Sheffield Cathedral for the last two years and occasionally coming back and leading services in our Parish.

Catherine has now been appointed as Priest-in-charge in Ravenscar, North Yorkshire. (between Whitby and Scarborough), where she will be responsible for two small churches, covering for villages.

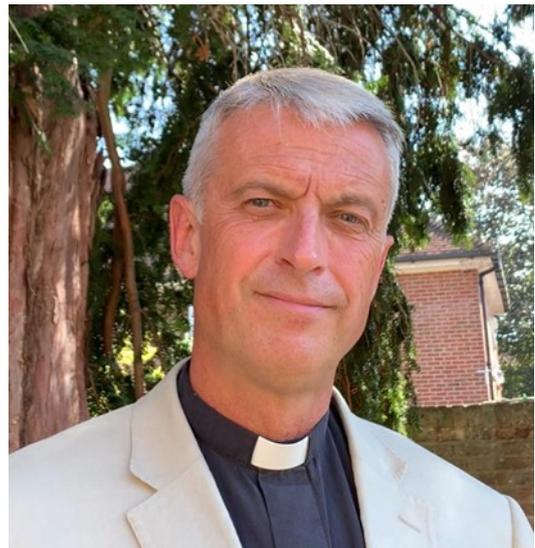
Congratulations, Catherine, from all in Abbeydale and Millhouses. What a lovely place ... Watch out — you may get visitors!!



Ravenscar, Yorkshire

New life as Vicar of Ecclesall -

Rev'd Canon Mark Brown



Mark was licensed on 21 January as vicar of our neighbouring parish of Ecclesall and has also become Area Dean for the Ecclesall Deanery, which includes our parish and a dozen or so local Anglican churches. As he and his wife Allie are new to the area, we asked him about his thoughts on a 'new life' in Sheffield.

"New every morning is the love our waking and uprising prove..." or so the words to a well-known hymn go. I sometimes feel the word 'new' can be over used or quickly go out of date or even become old - except when the realities of a new house, a new area and a new job are right on one's door step! That is indeed the case for my own vocation or calling to be at All Saints and the new Area Dean of Ecclesall. So far, so good, and the people, and various places I have ventured on foot or by car to have been very welcoming and hospitable despite the now predictable restrictions. Easter of course does bring something factually new in terms of new life which should always offer hope to a predictable routine. It is wonderful to reflect that a new day could be a signpost that points to Easter. I count myself blessed to have safely moved house, (with predictably, again, too much stuff!), and pray that in all this excitement I don't forget that the main gift of new life is always and truly found in Christ our Risen Lord. I do wish the communities of Abbeydale and Millhouses fresh new experiences of God's gracious love which are new every morning.

Angie Lauener

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Child Grief and Covid-19

by Revd Brian Cranwell

My research into children's perspectives as to what helps or hinders them in times of grief over the loss of someone close, supervised by Sheffield Hallam University, began with my surprise in finding out how many children suffer such losses. I had been working with individual bereaved children for some years in Sheffield and Rotherham, but had no idea of this frequency nationally.

I found that apparently a parent of a child under the age of 15 in this country dies every 27 minutes, amounting to 20,000 in a year. When we add those who lose a brother or sister, this comes to a quarter of a million. Then, in addition half a million have to deal with the death of a close friend and over one million with the death of a grandparent

So this gives a total of around two million bereaved children in what we refer to at present as 'normal' times. We now have to come to terms with the figure quoted in the media recently that already more civilians have died because of the virus than died during WWII, which will inevitably mean more losses for children.

It is not surprising, (nor is it always appreciated), that a) some children will have physical and/or emotional health problems and b) many will find difficulty in concentrating. While the above figures refer specifically to the death of someone close, they do not include losses through marriage/parental breakdown and separations which can sometimes be more traumatic than a death.

What worries me now is that this pandemic will not only mean increased numbers of bereaved children but that the restrictions caused by



lockdowns and school closures will mean many reactions of adults to children in these circumstances are known to do more harm than good. Actions that are often thought to be for the best, will have long term effects on more children than usual. This is why many such children often look forward to getting back to supportive friends and the familiarity of school, a facility denied them at present.

I came across good research that showed that half of all bereaved children find difficulty in ordinary everyday functioning during the first year after a death while 16% still have such problems a year on. What often confuses parents is that one in five show no immediate problems but show them a year or two later.

When it comes to physical health we also know that such children consult a GP more before and after the death of a sick parent, have physical problems – headaches, infections, bed wetting, tummy troubles and loss of appetite, or show the same symptoms as the illness of the deceased.

These stats alone should justify help to such children but many assumptions by adults, including teachers and clergy can cause added burdens. These include:

The grief of adults does not affect a bereaved child.

Adults should avoid topics that cause a child to cry.

An active playing child is not grieving.

Infants and toddlers are too young to grieve.

Adults, teachers and clergy are always prepared and qualified to give instant explanations about loss, grief and spirituality.

Children should not attend funerals.

Basically, the processes of grief for children are much the same as they are for adults – shock, disbelief, anger, guilt, yearning, searching, disorganisation, despair, rebuilding and healing. An understanding of death is age dependent but necessary, as is finding opportunities to remember the deceased so that the child can move on and not be afraid to love or trust again. I often found a child benefitted from a funeral by reading a bible passage, a poem, or short appreciation they had written themselves.

The language used is also important, dependent on age, and all the children I interviewed said they preferred direct language. Some had younger siblings who had assumed "Gran has gone to see Jesus" meant they had flown somewhere and would be back, while "Gone to sleep" was also found confusing.

While I cannot give any more explicit material in the space here my main worry is that with the lockdown rules in force over numbers attending funerals, some children's presence will be seen as unnecessary, when they see themselves as losing one of the dearest people in their lives. I recall a Head teacher saying to me (in her 50s) "The worst day of my life. I adored my Gran. I was 12 years old and had to go to school instead of being able to say goodbye properly at her funeral"



Narcissi



I love pale narcissi,
Sweet emblems of spring:
Such delicate beauty,
And grace do they bring.

With fragile white petals,
And wide open eyes,
They seem to look up with
Delighted surprise.

Their leaves dark and graceful,
With delicate fold,
And slender green stems are
A joy to behold.

Oh darling white flower
That comes with the spring,
You're purer and sweeter
Than everything!



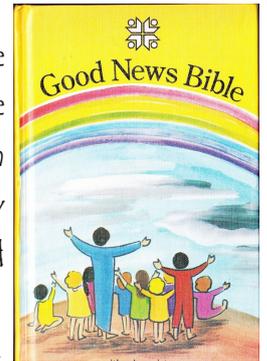
From 'Spring Poems' written by *Sylvia Melling* (nee Cooper) as a young girl. Many readers will remember Sylvia and Harry Melling who attended Holy Trinity most of their long married life.

A new read.....

Recently the telephone rang and Faith, one of my grand-daughters, told me that she had been reading a new book. She thought I might be interested and was sending me a copy — which is how I received a wonderful gift entitled:

"The Bible a story that makes sense of life"
by Andrew Ollerton

After some thought I came to the conclusion that since my school days, I had had an on/off relationship with my GOOD NEWS BIBLE, dated 1976.



In 1280 pages it covers 66 different books, each book relating to, say, 70 different subjects.

The printing on each page is small and I shall need a magnifying glass to read it. Still it has provided me with a challenge.

To be realistic, when marks out of 10 are considered for its use, I award myself one mark only— that's for keeping it dusted!

If you are interested in acquiring a copy of my new book, please ring

CLC Order line 0330 8181 000

Best wishes to all,

David Cunningham



Repairing Lives

Peter Lauener

One of the lockdown hits of the last year has been *The Repair Workshop*, where skilled craftspeople receive family heirlooms which have become worn and dilapidated and in need of restoration and we see traditional skills being demonstrated on our TV screens as the items are brought back to life and beauty.

The Repair Shop is filmed at The Weald and Downland Living Museum, just outside Chichester. It's situated by the South Downs National Park, making for a picturesque location and the camera operators show their skills as well with some exquisite pictures of nature's glories.

The format is the same every week. Someone arrives at the repair workshop bringing their item, they are introduced by the programme host Jay Blades to the expert who will repair the item. They explain why this item is important to them, there is usually a sharp intake of breath at the scale of the task and then we see a very edited version of what is often a long and intensive restoration which really tests the skills of the expert.

We then have the unveiling moment when the owner returns and sees the results, followed by another sharp intake of breath when they see how beauty and order have been restored, usually ending in tears of emotion and joy.

We have seen torn and dirty paintings unbelievably restored to original perfection;



a weather vane from a Norman church in Essex which had been mended and reinstalled; juke boxes and penny slot machines which had seized up working again; lots of soft toys and dolls cleaned,

repaired and restuffed; musical instruments which can be played again after decades of sitting in a corner and mechanical items of all kinds which often have special parts made from scratch to get them working again.

So what makes this programme so wonderful? It is an antidote to the throwaway culture, seeing items which have already lasted sometimes for generations and which will see generations to come. We see amazing craft skills on show and I can't be the only person thinking 'I wish I could do that!' There seems such a peaceful joy in the camaraderie of the experts - and the wonderful setting itself is a balm to the soul in times of stress and anxiety.



But at the heart of the appeal of the programme is something else. The stories we are told when an item is brought and the tears of joy at the end are not in the end about the item that has been repaired. They are about the personal and family stories that lie behind the item. Often the item is the only thing left that connects someone to a much loved family member who meant a huge amount in their childhood. The restored item brings memories flooding back and a feeling that the person they are remembering would be proud to see the item so lovingly restored.

One of the meanings of repair is to '*to go to a place*'. So in the moment of seeing a cherished item restored, they are taken to another place in time and the memories and relationships which meant so much to them are experienced again and repair their own lives.

This is something I can identify with personally. My mother was always coming home with odd items she had bought at sales, many of which ended up in the shed, waiting for something to be done. When she died and my brother and I were clearing out the house, there were two items in particular, two chairs and a dresser which had been in the shed and which I knew she had always wanted to restore. Not having the skills, I paid for them to be restored and every time I see them, I think of her and hope that she would be happy to see them being cherished and used.



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Now the green blade riseth!

Is this an aspiration for all Sheffield United fans? Oh, that it were true! It's from the first line of a hymn we often sing at Easter because it tells of the new life, when Jesus rose from the dead. It also has hopeful news about the healing power of the love of God when things have been tough or following a time of pain – a hope that many of us will identify with as the Covid pandemic slowly subsides. I think the archaic language adds to the beauty and poetry of the words.

**Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.**



**In the grave they laid him, love whom men had slain,
Thinking that never he would wake again.
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green,**

**Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain.
Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.**

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Thy touch can call us back to life again;
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.**



This hymn was written by Anglican priest John Crum and first appeared in the 1928 edition of the Oxford Book of Carols. It is sung to the French Christmas carol tune Noel Nouvelet

C. Michael Hawn, Professor of church music at Perkins School of Theology, writes:

"What a metaphor for Jesus' resurrection! The connection of the Easter event - the rising of Jesus -- is unmistakable. The simple phrase "Now the green blade riseth" reminds us that Jesus is risen today just as he rose on that first Easter morning. In the third line, we find "Love" being used as a metaphor for Jesus. We are now reminded why Jesus came to the earth in the first place: "For God so loved the world..." (John 3:16)... In the fourth stanza, Crum emphasizes that no matter what we are going through, "Jesus' touch can call us back to life again."

The hymn is based on bible verses from John's Gospel –

"Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit'" (John 12.23-24) and Paul's letter to the Corinthians, "And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body". (1 Corinthians 15.37-38)



Revd Dr. Angie Lauener



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David Crosby

Brian Canwell suggests another way to help ... Donate towards vaccinating people in Malawi against Covid—19 by googling LSTM (Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine), "BumpitForward" Campaign

**And it's from
the old I travel
to the
new.....**



It was a murky, grey evening as I walked through the tomb stones behind 850 year old Beauchief Abbey. The beginning of March - *Spring?* More like winter! The big trees stood starkly black in the still, misty gloom with no signs of life.

But then... I stumbled on a small patch of snowdrops and my spirits rose. Walking a little further, to the top pond, there was the resident flock of mallards with the drakes noisily squabbling over the females. This annual ritual, as they choose their partners and build nests in the dense reeds, was being watched over silently by the lonesome heron. This year the ducks are having to share the pond with a small flock of goosanders which has also taken up residence – a first as far as I know. Will there be goosander chicks as well as ducklings and moorhen babies? That really will be exciting to see! What wonderful new life!

As I continued through the gloom into the bare woods, this promise of new life reminded of a incident which happened more than 50 years ago.

My life had been turned upside down as I left the familiarity of teaching in Sheffield for a year in Fiji. I was able through books, (no 'googling' or videos in the late 1960s), to have some inkling of what life would be like. Beyond the capital, Suva, no electricity or running water; no communication with the outside world... Flying was also a first as I had only been abroad once before – by boat. I vividly remember the searing heat and humidity which hit me when I landed. However what I came home with was gratitude for the wonderful hospitality given by the Fijians as I travelled from village to village, island to island, sharing their very basic, gentle, easy-going lives.

A year after I came home, Mbale, a young Fijian teacher gained a scholarship for further training in the U.K. She arrived in late September and spent her first six months in London. At the end of March she came to stay with me for the Easter holidays.

One day, as we drove into Derbyshire, the trees and hedges still dark and bare, Mbale casually remarked, *'What a terrible winter it must have been to kill off all the trees and plants.'* She really thought they were totally dead!

I pulled over, we got out, and I showed her the emerging buds and green shoots coming through what was left of the autumn leaves ... she was amazed that this happens every year.

This made me think how 'new life' is so different for each person. As I headed home, the way the Covid crisis has caused so many folk to create a 'new' life hit me - for some exciting, some lonely or sad, but challenging for all. Once home, listening to the news, there was a report of an enterprising young woman who had been made redundant. Realising that the construction industry is booming, she had retrained and is now working on a building site.

Not everyone is so fortunate... children and students are coping with a very different style of education; refugees face new lives of hardship; asylum seekers dream of a wonderful new life which rarely materialises.

As each day is a new beginning in our lives, (I write this on the eve of my 80th birthday!) behind me is the decade in which, with wonderful help, I overcame stage 4b cancer and so another new chapter begins... I ask God, as my life's companion to....

**Keep me
travelling
along
with you**



Pat Jackson

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NEWS FROM MILLHOUSES METHODIST CHURCH



We were so grateful to local schools, groups and traders for providing pictures, poems and messages for our bunting display outside the church in the lead-up to Christmas and pleased to see many passers-by pausing to look, with some writing names in remembrance, reflection and prayer on the sticks in our sand tub.

At the time of going to press, sadly the church building is still closed as we are in lockdown.

Please watch our noticeboards and website www.millhousesmethodistchurch.org.uk for up-to-date information.

Dear Friends,

Living in this country we are fortunate to be able to experience four seasons, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. People living in some areas of the country would tell you that they are able to experience the four seasons all in one day!

But we are now coming out of Winter and into Spring and looking forward to brighter days and warmer weather.

Thinking of this and looking at our front garden, made me realise that one of the flowers that shows so much resilience to the vagaries of this transitional period is the snowdrop.



It is such a joy to realise that this tiny flower survives through snow, ice, rain etc. and even having snow piled on top of it as I clear a path to the road.

There are many places to visit, when we are allowed, which have displays of snowdrops in their grounds, e.g. Hodsock Priory, Hopton Hall, Burton Agnes Hall to give an idea. Should you be out for a run in the car, travel along the road from Grindleford to Calver and look at them under the dry-stone walls of Stoke Hall.

As we move further into Spring, we notice new shoots and buds appearing and also other flowers, such as daffodils, and if you want to see a glorious display of wild daffodils then visit Farndale in North Yorkshire.

Looking at nature even through the lives of snowdrops or daffodils can be likened to looking at our faith, Nature has such a lot to reveal to us.

Our faith can be like these plants, we can be battered by rain, snow, and heavy frosts, we can lose our way, be burdened down by doubt, waiting for the 'better weather' to lift us up.

The theme of TRIO is 'New Life' and nowhere is this more to the fore in our lives than at the present time. We await being able to come out of 'lockdown'. We look to the future, but we don't have to look too far, for Easter is just round the corner and we find our assurance of a brighter future in the Easter story.

Jesus was buried in the dark, desolate tomb. To the disciples all hope seemed to have disappeared but on the third day he came back to life bringing New Life into the world, and this New Life is still with us. However, unlike these early spring flowers, that New Life in Jesus is with us AT ALL TIMES irrespective of how we might be feeling

This past year has been difficult for all of us. We've missed meeting family, friends and neighbours and for some it's been difficult to get out of the house. Those of us who attend church have missed worship and our church family.

Nevertheless, throughout all of this we do have that reassurance that GOD IS WITH US offering NEW LIFE to ALL.

Richard Wilshaw

For many years we have decorated a cross with daffodils during our Easter Sunday morning service and it has stood in our doorway during Easter Week.



Photos provided by Vivien Fisher

stewardship

Abbeydale and Millhouses Parish receives no central or government funding. We rely for our Parish Mission entirely on the generous giving of each Church member.

The Parish has a generous congregation. Over 200 members give of their time voluntarily to support the Parish Mission in all kinds of ways; supporting worship and prayer by serving at the altar, singing in the choir, playing an instrument in the music group, compiling and printing pew sheets, flower arranging and welcoming visitors. Nearly 50 members make tea and coffee and cater for refreshments at church events.

One hundred church members edit, bundle and deliver the Trio magazine to over 4,800 homes quarterly. Volunteers support tots and toddlers groups and the luncheon club weekly.

- the five parish buildings cost £80,000 a year to heat, light, insure, clean, maintain and repair.
- Parish Ministry and administration cost £90,000 annually. We also need to plan for future growth and increasing resources.

servicing the community

We provide two church buildings for private prayer and public worship, choir and music concerts. Three parish halls, in addition to many church activities and events, support a wide range of community activities for all ages; e.g. a day nursery, study groups, dance classes, sports clubs, uniformed groups, and family events.

We collect food for the Grace Food Bank and support the Sheffield Credit Union. We donate over £14,000 a year to a wide range of charitable causes in Sheffield, across the country and overseas. We are also a Fairtrade Parish supporting farmers and communities in the Developing World. We aim to achieve net zero emissions by 2030.

Parish financial needs

This year there are increased financial demands:

1. The cost of Ministry has risen by 2% to £80,800
2. We need to employ a full-time caretaker,
3. We need to employ a new Associate Priest to increase our support for the Ministry Team.
4. We need to upgrade St. John's church building to provide toilet and kitchen facilities and give greater accessibility for the local community and church members.
5. We need to continue to support our Children and Families Worker.

GIVING GENEROUSLY

Each church member has been asked to:

review their planned giving and increase their giving by at least £1 per week, and

consider opportunities to volunteer to support the Parish Mission.

David Crosby – Assistant Treasurer



Grateful thanks to those who have already generously responded to offering greater service in this way.

Worship at Holy Trinity and St. John's

As we go to print, Covid-19 restrictions are in force and our churches and halls remain closed.

BUT this could all change soon! BOTH churches MAY be able to open on EASTER SUNDAY!

However if we can open, anyone attending will have to book through the parish office.
and you can join all services through our zoom link or by phone. The link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6745323083?pwd=eitkeVdiODV4S1NpRzJvV0ZxbTd6UT09>

Meeting ID: 674 532 3083 Passcode: AMCHURCH

Phone instructions are as follows:

1. Dial into a service on 0203 0512 874 (you may be charged, please check with your provider) on mobile or landline.
2. Enter the meeting ID 674 532 3083 #
3. Enter participant ID followed by # (but this is not required and you can just enter#)
4. Enter the passcode, if needed 44005254 #

Once you have dialled the first number the phone instructions are very clear..

We will still continue to 'zoom' services after we are allowed to open for public worship.

For up-to-date information please contact:

the Parish Office on 0114 249 0377 / or email htmillhousesoffice@yahoo.co.uk

Or visit the website: www.amchurchsheffield.co.uk

March

Sun 21st Fifth Sunday of Lent Holy Trinity
Passiontide begins
10.00 am Service of the Word



Sun 28th Palm Sunday St. John's
10.00 am Service of the Word

May

Sun 2nd Fifth Sunday of Easter Holy Trinity
10.00 am Service of the Word/
Holy Communion



Sun 9th Sixth Sunday of Easter St. John's
10.00 am Service of the Word/
Holy Communion

Sun 16th Seventh Sunday of Easter Holy Trinity
10.00 am Service of the Word/
Holy Communion

Sun Pentecost
10.00 am Holy Communion St John's

Sun 30th Trinity Sunday Holy Trinity
10.00 am Holy Communion

Peter's final service as our vicar

April



Sun 4th Easter Day St. John's & Holy Trinity
10.00 am Holy Communion

Sun 11th Second Sunday of Easter St. John's
10.00 am Service of the Word/
Holy Communion

Sun 18th Third Sunday of Easter Holy Trinity
10.00 am Service of the Word/
Holy Communion

Sun 25th Fourth Sunday of Easter St. John's
10.00 am Service of the Word/
Holy Communion

N.B. If restrictions allow a congregation in church on Easter Day, (i.e. after 29th March), worship will continue to alternate between our two churches, and the 10 am service will be Holy Communion.

Happy
Easter!

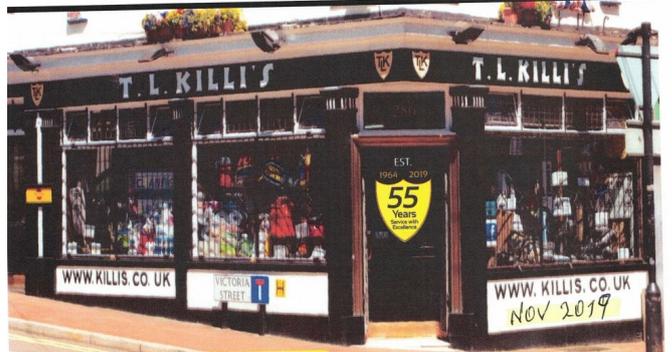




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