

The Parish of Abbeydale & Millhouses

Loving God, valuing people, caring for His world

Sunday 3rd December 2023

The First Sunday of Advent

at Holy Trinity	10.00am	Christingle and Parish Communion
Hymns	219	How lovely on the mountains
	On sheet	Round orange, round orange
	On sheet	Christ be our light
<i>Communion</i>	53	Be still for the presence of the Lord
	494	The Spirit lives to set us free
at St John's	6.30pm	Advent Carol Service

Readings	Isaiah 64. 1-9
	1 Corinthians 1. 3-9
	Mark 13. 24-end

Collect	Post Communion Prayer
Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen	O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Welcome! It's good to see you.

We are the family of God and all are welcome at his table. If you are used to receiving **communion** you are welcome to do so here. If you do not wish to receive communion but would like to receive a blessing, please indicate this by bringing this leaflet up with you. Gluten free wafers are also available.

Both churches are equipped with a **hearing loop** system. Please switch your hearing aid to the 'T' setting.

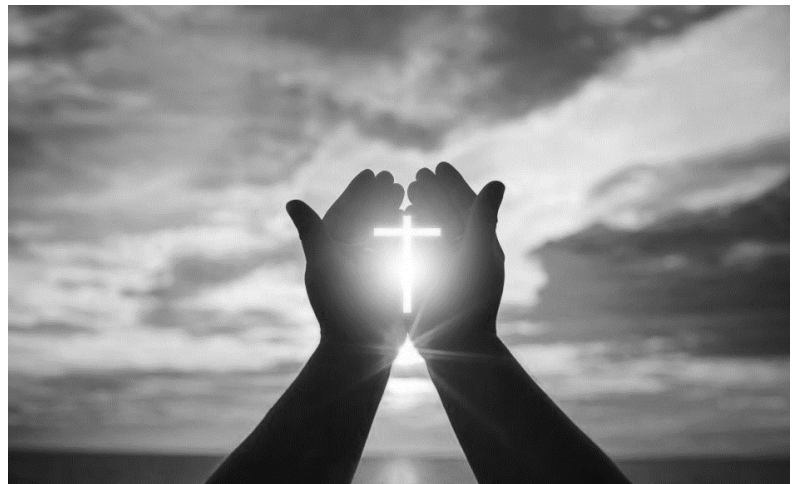
Toilet facilities: at Holy Trinity through the vestry door at the front of church on the right. At St John's at the back of church on the right. At both churches there are also toilets in the hall across the car park. All facilities are accessible.

You may wish to use the prayer below to help you to **prepare for worship** this morning.

Lord Jesus, I receive your love
poured out for me
in bread and wine.

Accept this gift of my life,
brought to the altar
without conditions.

Do your work in me,
and let me be, like you,
taken, blessed,
and given for others;
for, in spite of my failings,
you know that I love you.
Amen

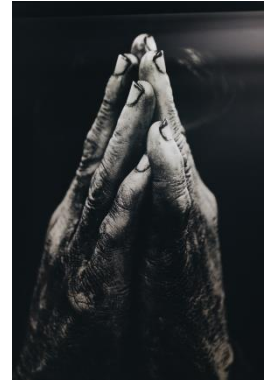


Prayers

We remember in our prayers....

- all in our church family who are unwell at this time,
in hospital or at home.

- those who feel isolated and lonely
- those who have no-one to pray for them
- those who are anxious
- those who have lost loved ones in recent weeks
- those whose years' mind falls at this time



We give thanks for the lives of all who have died recently.

Rest eternal grant unto them, oh Lord and let light perpetual shine upon them.

This week:

Pray **in the morning** for the day and its tasks; the world and its needs; the Church and her life; and **in the evening** for peace, individuals known to us personally and their needs.

Prayer diary

On *pray for:*

Mon	all who suffer with anxiety and depression
Tue	all who grieve at this time
Wed	the work of the Mothers Union
Thu	the work of the Children's society
Fri	peace in strained relationships
Sat	all who are displaced

*Prayer requests can be left on the board in the Lady Chapel at HT and in the
Baptistry at St John's.*

*They are gathered weekly, placed on the altar and offered to God at the
Wednesday Eucharist.*

Readings

Isaiah 64.1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

1 Corinthians 1.3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel: Mark 13.24-end

‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

Notices

Notice from the Churchwardens

After a meeting with the Area Dean on Monday 25th September, the Wardens are pleased to announce that the Service for Licensing and Installation of Rev'd Nicholas Noble is planned for Sunday 17th December 2023 at 6.00pm at Holy Trinity Church. The Service will be led by Bishop Pete and will be followed by refreshments.

Christmas is Coming - A big thank to everyone for their efforts and support on Saturday, it was a great community occasion and enjoyed by young and old. We raised a total of £1500 for the Church and the charity stalls did very well too. David and Gail.

TRIO magazine delivery - Christmas edition now ready for collection at the back of Holy Trinity church.

THE ADVENT CAROL SERVICE at St John's today at 6:30pm is a musical reflection on the fall of Man, the prophecies of redemption, the testimony of John the Baptist, and the Annunciation. The choir, augmented by some guests offer Advent carols and responsories, there are some Advent hymns and several readings.

Christmas at The Grace Food Bank – from Chris Wrigley

Firstly, thank you for all your support throughout this year. As you can imagine it has been a demanding one for the Foodbank. This Christmas, I'm asking if we, at St John's and Holy Trinity, could please concentrate on the following items for our Christmas Wish List: Christmas biscuits, Pringles, Cheddars, Fizzy grape juice, tins of Salmon or Ham, sachets of Custard, small biscuits for Cheese.

This needs to be packed at the Foodbank in the early part of December, and so it would be helpful if your wonderful gifts could be put in the Foodbank boxes at the back of the respective churches by Sunday 3rd of December.

On behalf of those who are in need at this time "Thank you so much". Chris

Christmas Tree Festival at Millhouses Methodist Church - Launch Event Sunday 3rd December 4-5 pm. Opening times 2-5pm in December - Sat 9th and Sun 10th, Sat 16th and Sun 17th, Sat 23rd and Sun 24th. Admission free but donations shared between St. Wilfrid's Centre and Methodist church funds. Friday 15th December - Community Carol Service 7.30pm.

Christmas Tree Festival at Millhouses Methodist Church continued ...

Thursday 21st December 7pm – 9pm, Simply Christmas - drop-in evening for anyone who finds Christmas difficult. Full details of both of these events are in the Trio magazine.

ADVENT COURSE: Churches Together in Abbeydale are inviting us to an Advent study course -*Travelling Light* - at the Parish Centre, Mother of God Church, Abbeydale Road, 7.30pm till 9.00pm on Thursdays 7th, 14th & 21st December. All welcome!

Decorating Holy Trinity Church

We will be decorating the church for Christmas and Nicholas' Induction on Friday 15th December. We will need good evergreens such as ivy, laurel and holly, especially variegated holly with or without berries. It would be a big help if this could be left in church during the week, but help could be arranged if this is difficult. Please let me know and thank you in advance. Pat Gregory

Christmas Carol Concert at St John's on Tuesday 19th December

at 7:30pm. As we are not able to have a Christmas Carol Service this year the concert will mirror the pattern of a normal Carol Service with traditional congregational carols, a wide variety of carols with a considerably augmented choir and a selection of Christmas readings. Admission will be free with refreshments afterwards.

Community of the Cross of Nails – Litany of Reconciliation – 2023 dates

Thursday 21st December at 1200 noon at St John's by the war memorial. All welcome.

The Journey of the Star - Saturday 23rd December 2.45 for 3pm at Holy Trinity Church.

All are invited to this children's Nativity and all children are invited to take part. Children can come along ready dressed as an angel or shepherd (tinsel headdress or tea towel is fine!) or turn up on the day and choose one of our many costumes. Please invite friends and family to join in this special children's Nativity, with well-known Christmas carols.

Nativity and Christingle for all the family - 5pm at St. John's on Christmas Eve.

All welcome to this well-loved beginning to our Christmas celebrations.

Diary

*Our churches are open this week for private prayer from 10.00am as follows:
Holy Trinity Mon-Sat; St John's Mon-Thu*

There will be no 8.00am Communion Services until further notice

Mon 4th Dec	9.30am	Morning Prayer	HT & Zoom
	10.30am	Coffee Morning	650 Abbey Lane
	1.30pm	Handbell Practice	94 Room St John's
	Please note: There will be no Handbell Practice on 11th, 18th, 25th December or 1st January.		
	6.30pm	Snooker	St John's Hall
Wed 6th Dec	10.00am	Community Café	Holy Trinity
	10.00am	Holy Communion followed by MU coffee	St John's
Thurs 7th Dec	9.30am	Morning Prayer	HT & Zoom
	10.00am	Trinity Tots	Holy Trinity
	11.00am	Lunch Club	St John's
	2.00pm	Carpet Bowls	St John's
Fri 8th Dec	7.30pm	Choir Practice	Holy Trinity
Next Sunday 10th December – The Second Sunday of Advent			
	10.00am	Parish Communion	St John's
Looking Ahead			
12th Dec	10.30am	Coffee Morning	14 Hurlingham Close
17th Dec	6.00pm	The Service for Licensing and Installation of Rev'd Nicholas Noble by Bishop Pete	Holy Trinity
19th Dec	7.30pm	Christmas Concert	St John's

Items for next week's pew sheet to Bev by **latest 5.00pm Wednesday**, please.

Parish Office: 0114 249 0377 | htmillhousesoffice@yahoo.co.uk