

trio

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Abbeydale and Millhouses Parish Magazine

Summer 2023

Summer Events p14 Local coronation celebrations p25
Plus many stories of fascinating journeys ... Personal, emotional
and historic!

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Usual SUNDAY Services (Maybe occasional changes!)

10.00 am Parish Communion
with music

Until a new Priest is appointed, the pattern will be:

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 and church events

The 10am service will continue to be zoomed
for details check the website

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

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The Revd. Dr. Angie Lauener 0114 236 2188

CHARITY NUMBER 1142485

From the clergy.....

Journeys

Many of us will be making journeys this summer to go away on holiday. The distance may vary – even going somewhere local can be a new experience and a welcome and necessary break from the usual routine – a chance for new experiences, a difference in perspective, so that when we return we may be relaxed, maybe inspired, with our energy restored.

I would call these journeys 'welcome' journeys. These are journeys that we plan, they are intentional. We choose to do them.

In this issue of TRIO, various writers have given us their stories of 'welcome' journeys. This includes the kind of journey people make when they commit to learning and developing a new skill, with all of the necessary self-discipline and motivation. A pilgrimage is a different kind of journey, where the journey itself is more important than the destination. It is a time to reflect – perhaps on one's life or faith ... time away from the usual demands with space and openness ... openness to God, openness to those things that usually don't have time to surface if our lives are busy. I have planned a 'pilgrimage' to Shetland in September. Yes, I anticipate that the destination will be spectacular, a place to enjoy the landscape, the sea, the wildlife, a time of rest and retreat, which I am really looking forward to. But I also see the long journey there by train, ferry and road as a pilgrimage.



The Shetland Isles



What about 'unwelcome' journeys, journeys not planned or intended? In this category, I include journeys where people



have no choice but to leave their homes, to flee war or persecution, or to move from an area of natural disaster – here, I am thinking of the people who recently fled from Sudan; of migrants making dangerous journeys out of fear of persecution; of the victims of the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey. I can't imagine what it must be like for these people suddenly leaving their belongings, their livelihoods, the security of their homes. An illness may also be classed as an 'unwelcome' journey ... then there is the journey to recovery, which is a more welcome journey.

Our faith and vocation may also be described as an ongoing journey for the whole of our lives. I don't believe our faith and our calling are ever static. Our calling may change, as we continually seek to be open to God, through prayer.

In this parish, we have been blessed as Rev'd Matt Wood shared eight months of his journey of life and faith as a priest with us, as Curate-in-Charge, together with his wife Clare. Now, his calling has led him elsewhere and he left the parish in March. We wish Matt and Clare well, with our prayers and good wishes, as they continue in their journey of faith, fulfilling their vocation where God leads them.

We anticipate the arrival of a new priest, hopefully some time later this year. As I write, I pray for God's guidance for all those who are discerning a possible vocation to come and serve in this parish, and for all who will be involved in the interview process.

Any journey may involve companions or it may be a solo venture. However, whatever the journey, welcome or unwelcome, alone or with others, I believe that God journeys with us.

I pray that He may be your constant companion through this summer and in your life's journey.

With warm wishes,

Angie, (Associate Priest)

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The Hallam Pilgrimage to Lourdes

What is a pilgrimage?

The dictionary says that a pilgrimage is a journey taken by a person to a sacred place for religious reasons (although I think the term is used much more loosely now to describe other journeys). There are numerous pilgrimage sites all over the world, representing many different faiths, but Lourdes, in the south of France, is very special to me.

Lourdes is a small town in the foothills of the Pyrenees. It is a beautiful area with the glacial River Gave running through its centre which is a lovely green colour in May when I have been there.

Why did Lourdes become famous?

Bernadette Soubirous, (St Bernadette as she was to become), came from a very poor family. She was 14 years old and not well educated. On 11th February 1858 she was out walking with her sister, gathering wood when she saw the apparition of Our Lady for the first time. She described her as young, clothed in white with a veil covering her head and shoulders, with a rosary over her arm and a yellow rose on each foot. The apparition occurred in a grotto on the banks of the River Gave.



Bernadette kept returning to the grotto and Our lady appeared to her 18 times over a period of five months. During one of these apparitions, she told Bernadette to go and drink at the spring. Bernadette could see no water but Our

Lady showed her where to scratch the soil and a trickle of water emerged. This is the source of the water that flows to this day.

As she was a poorly educated peasant girl, the authorities would not believe what she had experienced but Our Lady told her to go to the priests and tell them to build a chapel and organise processions to come and pray. Eventually the authorities did believe her and so Lourdes gradually became the place of Pilgrimage we know today.

Why is it such a special place?

Pilgrims gather from all over the world for many reasons. Many are sick and go hoping for some relief of their symptoms, or even a cure in a few cases, but



most go because it is such a spiritual place and they can share their experiences with each other. In the height of the season there could be more than 25,000 people there. Miraculous cures are very rare. In fact, only 70 have been declared miracles (after very rigorous investigations), although there have been around 7000 reported cures.

Why did I go?

I went with the Hallam Diocesan, (R.C.), Pilgrimage and my role was that of "handmaid". Our role was to help and support the nurses. The pilgrimage consists of clergy (the pilgrimage is normally led by the Bishop), doctors, nurses, male and female helpers, sick and able bodied pilgrims, (all seeking help in a variety of ways). We also had a large youth contingent from the local schools who helped in many ways like pushing wheelchairs and befriending the less able pilgrims.

I always found the whole experience very uplifting. We had a very busy schedule, partaking in the various devotions and processions. The role of all the helpers was to enable everyone to attend as many of these as they wished.

The two main events of the day are *The Blessed Sacrament Procession*, (every afternoon), and *The Torchlight Procession* in the evenings when it was becoming dark. These are both very memorable as they are the times when most of the pilgrims gather together so they can be very long. Throughout the day, pilgrims gather in much smaller numbers for other devotions in one of the smaller chapels, or outdoors.

I think the main reason I kept returning was because I felt I was helping pilgrims who would not be able to go unaided. Many of these had wanted to visit Lourdes for much of their life. However, I also felt that everyone helped me as much as I helped them.

A Tale of Two Statues

On the quayside of Poole Harbour a motionless figure sits gazing out to sea in the direction of Brownsea Island. The statue of Robert Baden-



Powell was erected in 2008, one hundred years after the publication of his ground-breaking book 'Scouting for Boys' which had followed his experimental camp on Brownsea Island the previous year in 1907.

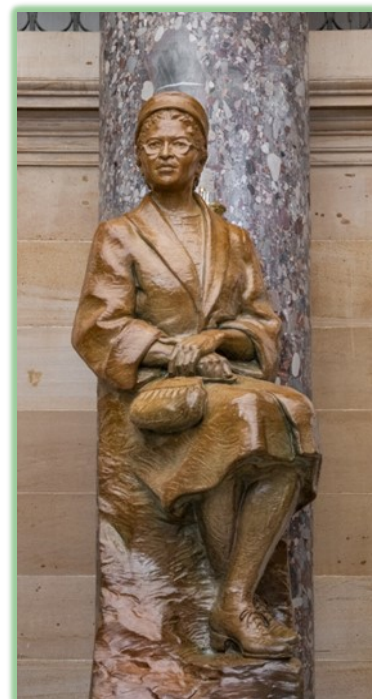
Robert Baden-Powell There B-P had organised a camp for 20 boys from a variety of backgrounds which he used to try out some ideas he had been developing for training in 'good citizenship'. The tremendous success of the camp and the subsequent book were the catalysts for the birth and phenomenal growth of the worldwide Scouting and Guiding Movements. The Brownsea Island camp was an example of a small event having enormous consequences.

Another 'small' event that was to prove tremendously consequential occurred on 1st December 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama. There an African-American woman called Rosa Parks who was riding in a racially segregated bus refused to give up her seat for a white passenger when ordered to do so by the driver. She was subsequently arrested. Rosa's small but courageous act of resistance to an appallingly unjust system was the catalyst for the Montgomery bus boycott. This lasted over a year and ended when the city repealed its laws requiring segregation on buses. Rosa went on to become an icon of the civil rights movement, heavily involved in the fight to end racial discrimination. In 2013 she was posthumously honoured when a bronze statue of her was installed in the National Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol building in Washington DC.

Baden-Powell and Rosa Parks: two people who from small events were propelled to international fame and ultimately immortalised in bronze. Yet the cause to which Rosa devoted her life, racial justice, has still to be fully achieved. The murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis on 25 May 2020 sparked a new wave of protests against police brutality and historic racism but this time around the globe, including the UK. Britain's colonial history and links to slavery came under increased scrutiny. Statues of certain historical figures were targeted. Even B-P's statue in Poole came under threat. Faced with threats of damage and disturbance the local council at first resolved to remove the statue but they changed their mind when this was met with a barrage of opposition including a petition and a 'guard' being posted around the statue by B-P supporters. Instead the Council boarded up the sculpture for its own protection.

Let's be clear: Black lives matter. This is a principle that should be obvious and universally accepted, but which sadly still seems to be rejected by too many people. This needs to change. It is not a bad thing that certain historic characters are being 'outed' as racists complicit in crimes against humanity. But why all the uproar about a statue of B-P?

Rosa Parks



Concluded on next page

Continued from previous page

Well, according to some critics Baden-Powell was not only a racist but a Nazi sympathiser to boot. Although B-P never attained complete moral perfection, such accusations are hotly disputed by many who have made a detailed study of the man and consider them erroneous and deeply unfair.

Scouting is and always has been completely antithetical to Nazism. Consequently, Scouting was banned and ruthlessly suppressed by the Nazis in Germany and occupied countries. B-P was actually on a list of prominent people who were to be arrested by the Nazis immediately following their planned invasion of Britain in 1940. (This would have been difficult to achieve as, seemingly unknown to German 'intelligence', B-P had retired to Kenya several years earlier!)

Criticism of B-P frequently ignores the fact that his journey through life, in times very different from our own, culminated in him founding the largest international youth movement of all time: a movement based on friendship between all nations, races and creeds.

To understand B-P's nature, including his flaws and mistakes, read the masterful and critically acclaimed biography of him by Tim Jeal. But first look at this photograph, probably from the 1930s, showing B-P, the first and only Chief Scout of the World, at an international event surrounded by Scouts from many different countries and races who are all clearly delighted to meet him.



B.P meets scouts from different nationalities and faiths at an international event.

The short bus ride taken by Rosa Parks turned out to be one of the most famous journeys of all time, cementing her place in history. But all our lives are a journey, full of twists and turns and unexpected diversions, something B-P perhaps exemplified more than most. Neither the length nor the ultimate destination of this journey can be predicted at the start, but how we respond to what we encounter *en route* helps to shape and define us as individuals. People can change, for better or worse. Surely when a final assessment of a life is made, although it should be looked at as a whole, a major consideration should be where the person 'ended up'. In the words of the song, 'It's not where you start: it's where you finish!'. If that's not the case, perhaps we should rename St Paul's cathedral? After all, Saul of Tarsus did some really bad things before he encountered Jesus and, as Paul, played a major part in the development of Christianity.

B-P was the product of his time and the prevailing attitudes of Victorian Britain, many of which are generally considered unacceptable to us today. But he was much more than that. In 'Scouting for Boys' B-P planted ideas in the minds of his young readers that were remarkably egalitarian at the time. That he ended up creating a worldwide Movement so wonderful and enlightened is (in my humble opinion) a cause for celebration and commemoration. I am pleased that B-P's statue is back on public display. Ultimately his life was one of service lived for the most part according to his maxim that *'the real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people.'*

Andrew Bullock

From the editor....

*Through a life-time of Guiding I have had countless opportunities to travel the world meeting and working with people of many different faiths and cultures. **B.P.'s principles remain unchanged, (i.e. Duty to your God, service to one's country and helping others), all done through peaceful co-operation. Long may these values continue!!***



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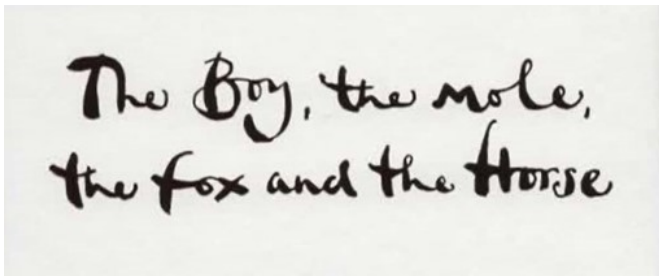
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David Crosby reflects on.....

this beautiful story by Charlie Mackesey, which was recently turned into an animated film and watched by millions over the Christmas and Easter holidays. It went on to win an Oscar!



The boy is lost, but is gradually joined by other creatures. The four characters meander in the snow and eventually find their way home. The mole is obsessed with finding cake, but each character has something profoundly interesting to say about life's journey.....

"We all need a reason to keep going" said the horse, "What's yours?"

"you three ", said the fox.

"Getting home" said the boy.



"I've discovered something better than cake" said the mole. "No you haven't" said the boy. "I have," replied the mole. "What is it?"

"A hug. It lasts longer."

"To be honest, I often feel I have nothing to say," said the fox.

"Being honest is always interesting," says the horse.

"Is your glass half empty or half full?" asked the mole.

"I think I'm grateful to have a glass," said the boy.

"When the big things feel out of control... focus on what you love right under your nose," said the horse, "this storm will pass".

"We have such a long way to go," sighed the boy.

"Yes, but look how far we've come," said the horse.



Extracts from the book by Charlie Mackesey published by Penguin Random House UK 2019.

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Ian's Journey: 'A window into my experiences in intensive care'

In John 17 there is a prayer in which Jesus is talking to the Father for the last time before he is about to face his death. In his prayer, Jesus is asking God to keep his disciples and all believers safe and protected. He says that if they have love, then Jesus will be in them. I love this prayer so much and love the book of John 17.

On the 19th of July 2022 I went to hospital for a simple knee replacement procedure. I was told that I would need to be in hospital for about four days before being able to return home to start my rehabilitation. Unfortunately, I became very ill after the surgery. I was in dreadful pain, but my body didn't react well to the amounts of morphine that I needed to manage the pain, causing my kidneys to fail. The morphine began to build up in my body supressing my breathing and sending me into respiratory arrest. At the same time, I developed pneumonia, which later turned into sepsis. The combination of these factors led my body to go into multi organ failure. I was immediately admitted to intensive care and within hours a decision was taken to put me into an induced coma and to put me onto a ventilator and dialysis machine. The doctors told Katie and David that they were not optimistic that I would pull through. However, I spent two weeks on intensive care on a life support machine and little by little I began to improve. The support that the machines were providing was able to be gradually reduced, until I was stable enough to be moved to the general ward. During most of this time I had no idea what was happening.



An intensive care unit... (NOT Ian!)

Once I was on the machines I started to dream. There was a series of small sofas going around in a circle, like a carousel. It was a comfortable experience going around on the sofa and I was able to chat to the other people sitting on the other sofas.



Everything felt good. At times the sofas would stop, and a kind lady would bring new people and some of the other people would leave. There was a cloud in front of us, which we weren't able to get past. It felt like a lovely place and I enjoyed moving around together. After a few days I remember feeling like I was a balloon that was deflating, and I could not speak. I wasn't in pain but I remember thinking 'I am dying'. But, suddenly, I came back again and I was back on the moving sofas and I was ok.

After some time, I asked if I could come out of the carousel and through the cloud and have more fun. There was one person who seemed to be in charge.

I asked if I could go out to find other people and go to different places to have fun. I then found myself visiting different places and having a good time. I went to Tynemouth with my aunt and then to the Isle of Wight to meet my friends there.

After some time, I was told I had to go back, and I came back through the cloud to the sofas. After a while of chatting with a friend I suggested that we should die together as I thought it would be better. We went to find the person in charge and told them that we wanted to die. He said that we couldn't die and so we went back to the sofas.

I found myself once again going around on the carousel on my sofa. Suddenly I could see Katie's face looking at me. I was so excited, and I could hear her voice saying, 'Dad, dad -- can you hear me?' I could, but I couldn't get through the cloud, and I couldn't respond. I could see Katie's face looking through the cloud and then all of a sudden Katie lifted me out. Then I was back in the hospital back in reality. I recall both Katie and David being there, and I remember asking to go home. Little did I know that I would be in hospital for a further four weeks. Katie and David remained with me throughout this experience.

I remember the dream so clearly. The doctors have since told me that it is very common to dream when you have an experience like mine.

Concluded on next page

Journeying on with Brownies and Rainbows at St. John's



Congratulations to Hollie Campbell, Brown Owl, and Becky Hackett, Tawney Owl, of the 99th St. John's Brownies, who received their Leadership badges and certificates from Ruth Winter and Ali Singleton at a Brownie Meeting. Thanks also to Mo Allam for her dedicated tutoring of Hollie and Becky.

99th St John's Rainbows

The girls, (aged 5—7), recently completed the Nature, Explorer and First Aid Badges.



This included a visit from the Edale Mountain Rescue Team, which both the Rainbows and Leaders found very interesting.



Here they are in the 'Recovery Position' for their First Aid badge.

Our term ended at Beauchief Abbey Gardens with an Easter Egg hunt!!



Sheila Stratford Rainbow Guider

Ian's Journey concluded:

I went in to have surgery to improve my mobility and quality of life. You will see that I am still struggling with my walking due to the complications. These have probably been caused by the lack of rehabilitation straight after my surgery, which is so necessary for a full recovery. Sadly, I also cannot sing properly, which is something so important to me that I have always loved. This is due to the tubes that were going down through my vocal chords into my lungs.

I remember all the prayers from my friends at Abbeydale and Holy Trinity. Throughout my stay Katie had been keeping in touch with Angie and Peter

and they were able to keep everyone informed at church and I know that you continued to pray for me. I want to say a huge thank you for all the prayers and support that everyone gave me during this time and since.

On my recovery, I immediately went back to John and remembered Jesus' pray asking to keep his believers' safe. It is such a powerful prayer to all who love Jesus and the Father. This prayer feels even more poignant following my experiences and one that I will always remember.

Rev Canon Professor Ian Draffan



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Pitsmoor to Premier....

It's the dream of many youngsters to play Premier League football, but very few achieve this dream. Billy Sharp, currently still the captain of Sheffield United at the age of 37, did just that.

Born in Pitsmoor, one of the most multicultural and deprived areas of Sheffield, Billy attended Ellesmere Nursery and First School from the age of three. Just two years later, in 1991, the school moved up the hill to amalgamate with Burngreave Middle School and become Byron Wood Primary School. There Billy stayed until the age of 11 when he went to Ecclesfield Comprehensive.



Around the time Billy started in



From 'The Star' 3rd May 1989

the Nursery at Ellesmere, where his older brother Seb was already in the Infants, the school went through a traumatic time. The head teacher and some of the staff were struggling to maintain discipline as a group of parents incited their children to rebel!! The problems were all based round racist issues and the results were catastrophic. The head walked out, many children literally ran riot round the school, ignoring teachers and being destructive. Some even climbed on outbuildings and damaged parked cars. Unsurprisingly this chaos hit both local and national press and television.

It was at this time, Easter 1989, that I was asked by the L.E.A., (Local Education Authority), to take over as headteacher and try and sort it out.

Throughout all this a few families remained supportive of the school and ensured their children were not involved in the extreme bad behaviour. Billy's was one of them. Throughout his school life Billy's Mum and Dad, Bev and Steve, were there for the boys. Bev became a very reliable

dinner lady and eventually my school clerk at Byron Wood. Steve helped coach our school football team. As Billy's potential emerged, through constant help and encouragement from his dad, he eventually joined Sheffield United's Junior squad and the rest is history.

Billy was never very tall for his age and, being one of the ethnic minority white children in the school, he could have been a prime target for bullying... but not Billy! His strength of character, determination and football skills were great assets and this is still true today as seen when playing for Sheffield United.

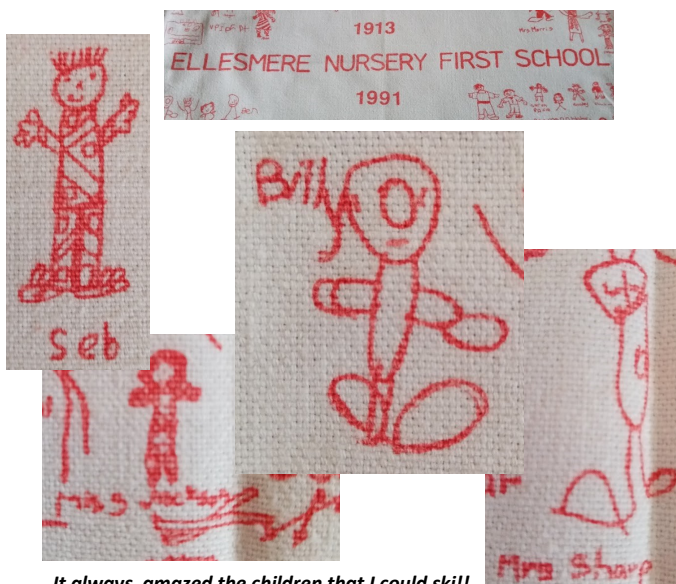
Billy and I both left Byron Wood in 1997. He was one of only a very few children who went right through from Nursey to Y6 – and who had a stable family life, a great tribute to Bev and Steve.

Needless to say, as a life-long 'Blade', I've watched Billy's progress with pride, especially when the Blades got to the Premier League in 2019—and now they've done it again so maybe someone will once more cross the 'E' off the Sharpe Avenue Road sign and drape it with a United scarf!

I hope too, that some of the values, such as fair play, equality and respect that we tried to nurture have played their part in what Billy has achieved in his football journey.

As a momento of Ellesmere, just before the amalgamation and move to Burngreave in the summer of 1991, a tea-towel was made. Each children drew themselves and all staff, including non-teachers. Needless to say it was in red and white. I still have a couple. Below are some of the images—but few would recognise Billy!

Pat Jackson



It always amazed the children that I could ski!!

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Evensong - Holy Trinity



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Three new regular activities in St. John's hall are welcome additions



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Mon & Tues 10-12

Dog Training

Fri 6.45pm-8.45pm

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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

Once again the absence of a full-time priest means that the number of services has to be drastically reduced. We are dependent on our wonderful self-supporting part-time Associate Priest, Dr. Angie Lauener, and visiting clergy. We are indebted to the Revd. Catherine Staziker who is covering many services.



June

Holy Trinity St. John's

Sun 11th Trinity 1

10am	Parish Communion
6.30pm	Service of Wholeness and healing

Sun 18th Trinity 2

10am Parish Communion

Sun 25th Trinity 3

10am	Parish Communion & Baptism
------	----------------------------

Wednesday Morning Communion

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

N.B. There will be NO 8am Communion Services on Sundays for the time being.

August



Holy Trinity St. John's

Sun 6th Trinity 9

10am Parish Communion

Sun 13th Trinity 10

10am Parish Communion

Sun 20th Trinity 11

10am Parish Communion

Sun 27th Trinity 12

10am Parish Communion



July

Holy Trinity St. John's

Sun 2nd Trinity 4

10am All-Age Eucharist

Sun 9th Trinity 5

10am	Parish Communion
4pm	Choral Evensong Steel City Choristers

Sun 16th Trinity 6

10am Parish Communion

Sun 23rd Trinity 7

10am Parish Communion

Sun 30th Trinity 8

10am Parish Communion

September

Holy Trinity St. John's

Sun 3rd Trinity 13

10am All-Age Eucharist

Sun 10th Trinity 14

10am Parish Communion



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More pilgrim journeys....

Before you turn to the next page, please wait. The title of this piece sometimes puts people on the defensive. The thoughts that this sort of stuff is just for Roman Catholics or 'high church' people may come to mind. But please read on.

I had only heard distantly about pilgrimages* before I found myself invited, for the first time, to join one. It was 1985 and my late wife, Chris, and I were living and worshipping in Crosspool. Suddenly, out of the blue, the Bishop of Sheffield, the Rt. Revd. David Lunn, invited everybody in the Diocese to join him on a Day Pilgrimage to Doncaster Race-course! A good many of us duly did so, travelling on a special train to Doncaster. It was a great occasion, and we all enjoyed a Diocesan open-air Eucharist on the race track (!), and a packed lunch.

The next year, following the success of the first, he invited the people of the Diocese to join him on a pilgrimage to Whitby. This, at least, had a religious connection, as well as being a most beautiful resort, which my wife and I frequently visited thereafter and ultimately retired to.

The following year, he took us all to Lindisfarne (or 'Holy Island'). It was a very long day's journey but it was worth it, if only to see the Bishops of Sheffield and Doncaster getting very muddy crossing the path to the island, on foot, at low tide.



A recent group of pilgrims crossing to Holy Island

All this was feeding us with a love for pilgrimage, and we made more of our own over the years since. We began to go on our own pilgrimages to Walsingham, in Norfolk, and ended up, in my last Parish of Darwen, in Lancashire, being part of the team that annually organized a Blackburn Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham (there are other pilgrimage destinations!).

To those who have been familiar with Chaucer's tales of pilgrimage in the distant past, it will not come as a surprise that it was as much to do with the motley crew that we were a part of upon the coach - with all the different styles and characters that can both endear and irritate - as it was with our joint mission to be possibly closer to God in a Holy Place, that made these annual ventures so enjoyable and wanting to be repeated. I would certainly recommend 'doing pilgrimage' by coach or minibus because of the camaraderie involved.

It is therefore my dearest wish to convey to you, if you are in need of it, my strongest encouragement to join a pilgrimage if the opportunity should arise. We, as Christians, know that God is with us everywhere. But it is our experience of his presence that may vary. To feel his presence in a site steeped in holy history can be a great boost to our faith. To do so, surrounded by a crowd of others who seek that same boost, and are prepared to put up with us in order to achieve this, is wonderful indeed! We would, I hope, all recognize that on our pilgrimage through life, God is as much with us on the journey as we believe Him to be at the end of it. Just so with the pilgrimages we may make on a smaller scale. We may look forward to a greater awareness of God's presence with us at our destination, but we must, like the disciples on the Emmaus Road, recognize his presence with us on the journey.

Bon Voyage!

The Revd. Doug Moore

* *Dictionary definition in earlier article, p.5*



Congratulations!

**Nikki
McDonald-
Bell**

On Thursday 30 March 2023 I was invited to attend St Mark's church, Broomhill for an Award Ceremony initiated by the Sheffield Hospitals Chaplaincy Team. This was to say "thank you" for six years of voluntary work within the chaplaincy department. Along with six other colleagues I was awarded "The Queen's Award" - the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK. I began as a wheelchair escort assisting patients to the chapel for the Sunday Service, (held in the chapel at the RHH), and subsequently became a ward visitor. I feel very proud and privileged to have received this award.

Nikki

Coffin Routes – The Final Journey

Andrew Horsfield

This is a journey that we all shall have to make when our time comes, and I was brought in mind of it recently when reading a detective novel set in the Peak District (**See below*) Coffin routes, which I think may be little known to our readers, have been called by many names: church-ways, funeral paths, corpse roads – all leading from a remote English village or hamlet to the Lych gate of the Mother Church.

They came about during medieval times when villages were locating farther and farther afield. Canon law of the period stated that a parishioner must be buried on the grounds of the Mother church, no matter how far away from their village, or how dangerous the travel.

Eight men would take turns carrying the body along the corpse road. Four men, one at each corner, would carry the deceased until they came to a coffin stone. These stones were laid out along the road at set intervals and designated as a place to lay the bier. Then the other four men would step in and continue carrying the deceased while the first four followed with the funeral procession and rested.

Corpse roads were usually straight since they were the most direct route from the village to the burial grounds. Some were only a couple of miles; others were close to ten miles long. It was believed that any field used as a coffin road would fail to produce good crops. And, they were also associated with spirits, wraiths and ghosts.

Although fences walls and buildings were not allowed to obstruct the corpse roads, usually at least one stream, river or marsh could be found crossing them. Legend said that by carrying the deceased over running water, they could not return home and haunt the living.

Often corpse lights or corpse candles would be seen traveling these paths, flitting low to the ground. It was believed that the spirits of the dead travelled close to the earth in a straight line that connected the village and the cemetery.

Other phenomena related to corpse roads include will-o' the wisps, also known as foolish fire, or Jack o' lanterns. Travellers saw these ghostly lights at night and folklore stated that they were the spirits of the dead, trying to lead travellers astray.

Crossroads, where two roads intersected each other, were also considered dangerous on a corpse road because they were viewed as a location where the world and the underworld met. It was believed that the Devil could appear at a cross-road so crosses were placed at intersections – hence *cross roads*, to protect those passing from the Devil and wayward spirits. Later, witch balls were also hung along the road. A witch ball was a bottle or enclosed circle of glass that contained threads and charms inside. These were used to catch and tangle passing spirits, trapping their evil or negative energy inside.

Once the funeral procession arrived at the burial ground, they would proceed to the Lych gate. (Lych is the Old English word for corpse.) Located at the entrance to the church property, Lych gates were constructed like a porch with a roof over them. Clergy would meet the mourners at these gates and assume responsibility for the body, preparing it for the burial service.

Concluded on next page



**Lych Gate at
Dore Parish**

*** ‘The Corpse
Bridge’ – one in a
series of detective
novels set in and
around the Peak
District and
written by local
author Stephen
Booth**

Source to Sea



Flooding in the Lower Don Valley

The flooding in South Yorkshire in November 2019 provided the catalyst for the creation of the Connected by Water Action Plan: as the flood water subsided, communities, businesses and senior leaders asked how can we reduce the risk and impact of flooding across the region?

The flooding in the Lower Don Valley required new works in the catchment area higher in the Upper Don Valley and hills of Derbyshire and Sheffield. The Upper Don project is one of the first to be delivered, primarily focussed on slowing the flow and storing water in Sheffield's hills. Sites in the Limb Valley, creating ponds and wetlands and soil management will test, trial and monitor different ways of delivering nature-based solutions, which will in turn inform the development of the wider Source to Sea programme.

A new leaky dam constructed on the Limb Brook to restrict flows.



David Crosby

Coffin Routes continued from previous page

Locally Dore and Totley people could not be buried at Dore until November 1829 when a graveyard, later extended, was opened west of the new chapel-of-ease. Up to then the dead had to be carried to the mother church at Dronfield. The main route is likely to have been via the footpath behind Busheywood Road, continuing as a corpse

A secondary route via Water Lane, (the bridleway from Cavendish Avenue running down the side of Abbeydale Sports ground to the bottom of Twentywell Lane, and my walking route to St John's), would have been slightly



Coffin Route at Water Lane

longer but avoided the fearsome ascent up the bank almost opposite the present Devonshire Road.

St John the Baptist church at Dronfield (the Mother church) has existed since at least 1135 and was Dore's parish church until 1843. Our parish churches are much more recent, and neither have graveyards.

St. John the Evangelist, Abbeydale was consecrated in 1876 and the parish was formed by carving off part of the parishes of Christ Church Dore and St. James Norton.

Holy Trinity Millhouses started in 1897 as the site for a chapel-of-ease, because the Parish Church of that time was up the hill at Ecclesall. However, by 1910 Millhouses had grown sufficiently to become a separate parish under the care of St. Oswald's on Abbeydale Road. However as Millhouses continued to expand the parish was divided yet again. The chapel and an adjoining house were demolished in 1935, and a new Holy Trinity Church, built in the 'Arts & Crafts' style on the same site was consecrated in 1937.

Today, corpse roads are still visible throughout England and abroad. Although it has been centuries since they have been used for their original purpose, the rockiness and remoteness of these burial roads might still make it preferable to stay clear of the paths at night.


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NEWS FROM MILLHOUSES METHODIST CHURCH



We send our best wishes for a good Summer to all readers of TRIO.
For details of all our services and other activities, please visit our website
www.millhousesmethodistchurch.org.uk.

WALKING WITH MICAH

The Methodist Church in Britain is currently engaged in a two-year project entitled “Walking with Micah”. It invites us all to go on a journey, based on the bible passage:

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and **to walk humbly with your God?**” (Micah Ch. 6 v 8)

The Sheffield Circuit Justice and Peace Group, which has now expanded to become the Sheffield District Justice-Seekers, initiated the idea of creating a quilt based on this theme.

It encouraged local churches to contribute squares illustrating what “Walking with Micah” means for them.

Here in Millhouses Methodist Church, a small group met to discuss how best to depict in our design what the theme of Walking with Micah means for us. We decided to use the symbols of a dove and a rainbow. (See picture)

The dove reflects a large banner with the words “My Peace I Give You”, which you can see in the sanctuary if you visit our church.

The rainbow, as well as reminding us of God’s promise of hope after the flood (Genesis.Ch.9 vs.12-17) has of course become a symbol of inclusiveness widely used by the LGBTQ+ community.

In 2021 we displayed a rainbow poster outside our Church with the words “All Are Welcome” to celebrate the decision of the Methodist Conference to allow the celebration of same-sex marriages where the local Church Council agrees. We have in the past year registered our building for this purpose.

Our square and all the others from across the Sheffield Methodist District are being combined into a quilt to be presented to the Chair of the Sheffield Methodist District, Rev. Gill Newton, who is currently President-Elect of the Methodist Church in Britain.

She will take up her responsibilities at the national Methodist Conference in Birmingham in June, and during her year of office will travel all over the country, taking the quilt on its own journey with her.

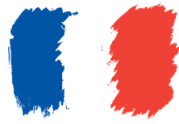
Our love and prayers will go with her, while here in Millhouses we aspire to continue to develop as an inclusive church where all are welcome.

Jenny Bywaters



The quilt on display at a Methodist District gathering. More squares have been promised to fill the last few gaps.

'A Grand Day Out'



A few years ago I was fortunate to embark on possibly the most exciting journey of my life (so far). This wasn't a round-the-world cruise, or a trip up the Amazon or across the Himalayas. It was much less glamorous than that, but as a wheelchair user it took a lot of planning and coordination. It was a day trip to Paris!

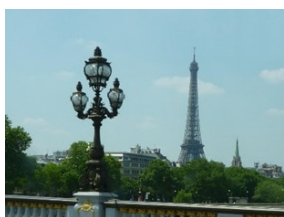
Having visited Paris as a child many years before I was keen to return, but I was unable to find a single hotel in the French capital catering for my accessibility needs. I decided that while having a long weekend in London with two friends, we would just have to nip over to Paris on Eurostar, cram as much as possible into a few hours and return the same day. Every detail would have to be planned meticulously. If anything went wrong we would be stranded in Paris with nowhere to stay. I felt like a NASA flight controller organising a mission to the Moon!

The great day arrived and started well: our alarm clocks went off on time. Too early for breakfast, a car arrived and whisked the three of us to St Pancras *International* station and the excitement of the Eurostar terminal. I clutched my shiny new passport. I was a real traveller now, with a compulsorily morose expression in my passport photo to prove it!

A great advantage of travelling on Eurostar as a wheelchair user was being automatically upgraded to a more spacious carriage, with the added bonus of an excellent breakfast *en route*. All went well until a steward approached carrying a very large shiny pan and a pair of tongs with which she dispensed steaming little 'parcels' which looked rather unappetising. I was wondering how best to eat mine when one of my companions pointed out that it was a very hot towel! Major *faux pas* narrowly avoided!

Eurostar trains are very fast, capable of over 300 kph. To protect the driver they have small windscreens to combat the hypnotic effect of speeding through a tunnel for 20 minutes. Yikes! Even so, it was 12:47 local time when we arrived at Paris's Gare du Nord. The sun was shining and it was extremely hot. Not trusting my schoolboy French, I had enlisted my brother-in-law (a languages teacher) to pre-book an accessible taxi to meet us at the station. To my relief, there was the driver standing at the entrance holding a little sign with my name on it. He ushered us into a large air conditioned (phew!) VW Caravelle and proceeded to take us on a whistlestop 30 minute tour of Paris. When you are in perhaps the most beautiful city in the world it is amazing what you can see in a short space of time. With its many gilded buildings Paris literally shone in the summer sunshine.

As planned, we were dropped off at the Musée d'Orsay for a spot of culture. What an amazing treasure house of art. Works by Van Gogh, Monet, Manet, Degas and Renoir to name but a few: we didn't have time to do it justice. But it was hot and two of us were flagging so we repaired to the café.



Now at last my limited language skills could really come to the fore. What could go wrong? "*Deux cafés au lait s'il vous plait.*" My request to the two ladies at the counter was met with blank stares of incomprehension. I repeated it. They looked at each other. Then one of them, without speaking, served me two small polystyrene cups, each one only half filled with black coffee. Incapable of further conversation and crushed by my linguistic failure, I muttered a quick '*merci*' and scuttled off to a table. The coffee was truly dreadful: so strong and bitter. But hooray: Yorkshire to the rescue! I remembered I had a bottle of sparkling Harrogate spa water in my bag from the previous day's train journey and this was soon added to our cups. Fizzy black coffee is perhaps an acquired taste, but it did the job and we were soon on the move again.



We walked along the Seine to the Île de la Cité and the magnificent gothic cathedral of Notre Dame which we were able to enter with minimal queuing. What a privilege to visit such a cultural icon, with its towering vaulted ceilings and medieval rose windows, and how awful to think that in 2019 it was to suffer such terrible fire damage.

At the time though I had other things on my mind. We were due to leave Paris on the last Eurostar of the day, but that depended on us getting back to the station in time. Bro-in-law had booked an accessible taxi to pick us up from outside Notre Dame, but what if it didn't turn up? As a precaution I had allowed just enough time (I hoped) for us to 'leg it' to Gare du Nord if necessary, but it would be tight. Just in case, I had 'walked' the entire route in advance on Google Street View, but as the clock ticked down I was getting increasingly hot under the collar. I will never forget my immense joy at seeing the taxi swing around the corner with a smiling driver leaning out of the window and waving at us.

Arriving at the station with time to spare, we made our way through the Eurostar terminal until we reached the 'Business Premier' departure lounge. The two immaculately dressed ladies on the reception desk looked at the three very hot and slightly bedraggled tourists in front of them and politely began to explain that we were in the wrong place. We casually showed them our tickets. Shortage of space on the train had meant that for the return journey we had been further upgraded to the highest level of passenger accommodation! We were immediately ushered into the lounge where we were happy to discover an exceptionally well stocked free bar and a veritable mountain of complimentary *canapés*. Understandably, we were slightly disappointed when our train came in, but not for long. While still taking our seats, we were greeted by a steward. Would we like champagne? Er, "*Oui, merci beaucoup!*"

307 miles and a five-course dinner later we arrived back at St Pancras, tired but happy and amazed at what we had achieved in one day. Apart from the fizzy coffee, everything had worked out perfectly.

Andrew Bullock

A continuing journey



STEEL CITY CHORISTERS

When Sheffield Cathedral Choir was controversially disbanded in 2020, former members gathered together to reimagine a community-orientated ensemble of mixed child and adult voices committed to sharing the joys of choral music across the city.

Out of this vision has grown **Steel City Choristers** which is ensuring that children in Sheffield continue having access to a free, high quality musical education through the English choral tradition, and singing for a wide range of churches and other



communities across the city.

The choir has around 30 choristers aged from six to 18, including five teenage boys who are supported to continue their singing journey once their voices change. The children, who are roughly evenly split between boys and girls and are ethnically diverse, sing alongside experienced adult volunteers on the lower voice parts. They receive a free intensive musical education in which they commit around 200 hours a year to twice weekly rehearsals, individual singing lessons and around 30 performance opportunities.

Steel City Choristers aims to make choral music more accessible and available to diverse audiences, especially to people who would not otherwise have the opportunity to benefit from it. As many churches are sadly struggling to maintain their own choir, Steel City Choristers is innovating to find a new model for sustaining the choral tradition. To date, they have sung 48 times for 28 different churches, (including St John's and Holy Trinity), or other community organisations, reaching over 4,000 people with their music.

In 2022, they enjoyed the opportunity to perform the Bach St John Passion with English Touring Opera and work with members of the world renowned ensemble 'The Sixteen' for a weekend of workshops and a joint service.

They sang with the choir of Doncaster Minister for the 70th anniversary of the Queen's Accession, and will be singing services at Sheffield, Bradford and Ripon Cathedrals over the next few months.

Steel City
Choristers singing
Evensong at St
John's

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our local church



Steel City Choristers' journey continues week by week. During a service at Ecclesfield on 14 May, they were filmed for a documentary about the service of Evensong - featuring alongside the choirs of Winchester Cathedral, Truro Cathedral and St. John's College Cambridge. The producer of this programme is keen to showcase **Steel City Choristers'** community-based approach to sustaining and sharing high-quality choral music.

Opportunities to hear them sing are listed on their website. For more information, or to make a donation, (it costs around £1,000 per chorister to provide this free musical education and offer choral music to the city), check the website:

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A local journey towards NET-ZERO

Grove Road Green festival and street party

We residents of Grove Road made the most of our extra Bank Holiday Monday on 8th May by holding a street party with an environmental/sustainability theme organised by GREG, [Grove Road Environmental Group]. Despite the attempts of the great British weather to dampen our enthusiasm it was a huge success, and we are very grateful to Holy Trinity for letting us use the church for our displays and stalls as our 'wet weather' plan.



The day started around 1.30pm with several residents opening up their gardens for us to admire and then, after the road was closed at 3.00pm, the go-carts came out and much fun was had with some younger residents whizzing up and down the unusually quiet road!!

There were a variety of stalls and displays; some run by members of GREG on topics such as food sustainability, recycling and home composting, and some by organisations like Knab Farm shop, The Bare Alternative and Roots and Bloom with their beautiful flowers. A plant swap also proved to be very popular and during the afternoon Di and Mark and their many helpers created a beautiful bug hotel which is now in



the vicarage garden – we hope it will get many important guests!

Tea and cake were served in the church hall from about 3.00pm and was a huge hit - I have never seen so much cake! We also had two celebrity guest appearances from our Local MP Olivia Blake and from Moose – the gorgeous (and huge) Newfoundland who lives on Millhouses Lane. His fee was two sausages!

We then had the results of the bake-off competition (more cakes!). Winners in the junior section were Isaac Reid, with his gorgeous Portuguese



tarts, and Imogen and Grace with their wonderful Victoria sponge. Winners in the adult category were brothers Alex and Joe Highland with a stunning 'bee' cake.

At around 4.30pm we moved onto Pimms and/or some delicious 'mocktails' and the barbeque started. Big thanks to Dave and James who valiantly barbequed over 130 sausages even when the threatened rain finally materialised! But by this time, we were all well into the party mood so nothing was going to stop us all have a great time getting to know neighbours much better and finding out about what we can do to help our environment.

GREG is a relatively recently formed neighbourhood group aiming to bring together people who are interested in taking action on the environment and climate change. Planning the party has taken most of our energy recently but the initial focus was on recycling, retro-fitting and public transport, particularly buses. Other members are interested in issues such as food sustainability - but maybe you would like to join us to find out more?

Please contact Alison Trezise (121 Grove Road) jandatrezise@virginmedia.com for further details.





“

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”

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Home

is where the heart is

Let's keep it there



Regular Parish Activities – for special events see p.14



Holy Trinity & St. John's
are **Fair Trade Churches**
A stall is held regularly after the 10 am
service in both churches

Carers and Toddlers

Thurs 10.00am H.T. Tots
Contact: Pat Kirbyshaw - 236 2643

Frid 10.00am Carers and
Toddlers - St. J's

Contact: Andrew Horsfield mail@andrewhorsfield.co.uk



Thursday Lunch Club - at St. John's for the elderly and lonely



*Always needs volunteers and
cooks.*

Contact: Jane Blockeel
0114 236 6861
jblockeel@aol.com

Community Café

Wednesdays 10am–12noon
Holy Trinity Hall's 'Warm Place'
for all ages – see p14



Mon 4.30pm Rainbows — St. John's 249 4113

Mon 6.00pm Brownies — St. John's 07588
240224

Tues 5.30pm Rainbows — H.T. Church Hall 235



Trefoil Guild



Meets on the third Monday each month
in the 94 Room at St. John's at 7.45pm

Contact: Pat Jackson 281 7557



Scouts

Parish Centre, Dobcroft Road

Monday	6.30 pm	Cubs
	8.00 pm	Explorers
Thursday	7.00 pm	Scouts
Friday	6.10 pm	Beavers

Contacts: Jeremy Holmes (Scouts & Explorers)
jeremypiglet@gmail.com 07703 441 613
Andrew Bullock (Beavers & Cubs)
ajbullock@blueyonder.co.uk

Handbells

Mondays 1.30 pm 94 Room St. John's
Contact Margaret Ibbetson 236 4184
New ringers warmly welcomed



amchurchsheffield.co.uk

Mothers' UNION

3rd Wed in each month at 2.15pm
94 Room St. John's
Contact 0114 274 7372

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
9.15am before the service



New members welcome for both!

Contacts: Mary Cobbold MA FRCO (chm) 07721 594095
Alan East MA ARCO 07535 595044



Monthly (alternate Mon/Tues) COFFEE MORNINGS

See website calendar for each venue
contact: Val Wiley 236 0726

St. John's Snooker Club

welcomes new members,
male or female, beginners
or experienced, any age or
religion



The club meets at back
of the church hall (Abbeydale Road South)

on Mondays at 6.30pm

Contact Michael Minns on 0114 274 7372



Come and have a go..

INDOOR Carpet BOWLS

Where? St John's Church Hall
When? Thursday afternoon 2—4pm
Beginners welcome!

Contact: Audrey Cutts 236 0613

Harvest Edition of TRIO

DEADLINE for articles

Friday 4th August 2023

Published Friday 1st Sept 2023



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Sometime...

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