

## Easter greeting from the vicarage



As a child, Easter Day was wonderful for reasons other than spiritual!

After forty days of abstinence (with only minor slips from grace) there was all that time to make up for and a 'good' Easter was measured in the number of eggs waiting on the table after church on Easter day, special for sweet gifts wrapped in quantities of coloured cardboard, with hidden surprises within. Knowing that Easter is special is achieved through many ways and means, and on different levels. Children with their chocolate is one and eggs, symbolising the mystery of hidden life, are another. Too much chocolate may not be good for us, but we can never get enough of Easter, however it manifests in our lives.

For the disciples, that 'first day of the week' was not just a new day, but a whole new present and a new future, newness that grew out of the desperate anguish of losing their beloved Lord. They were living with the sights and sound of his horrendous death and had lost a whole new way of life in his ministry. Their world had been turned upside down when they were confronted with Mary Magdalene telling them a horrific tale of grave-robbery.

Not knowing what this sacrilege meant, two disciples ran to the grave. Although Peter was mystified at what he saw, the other disciple was suddenly enlightened. Jesus had told them what to expect but when the actions were played out his followers had not been able to connect words with events, until now. "He saw and believed". What a moment!

For each of us Eastertime will have a different meaning and significance, perhaps the joy of a Bank holiday weekend, some much valued family time. For some it will be a day of obligation. For some 'being in church' on Easter Sunday is what faith means, and yes, some will be looking forward to the chocolate!

I invite you to come and celebrate Easter with us; however much or little we understand the great Easter Mystery, re-live the gift of Christ given for us, alive for us.

**Alleluia! Christ is risen!**



Our Lent Appeal this year is supporting **Embrace the Middle East**, a Christian charity with over 160 years' experience helping people of all faiths and none to free themselves from a life of poverty and injustice.

Together with local Christian communities they are bringing lasting change to the Middle East through healthcare, education and community development projects.



For more information go to [www.embraceme.org](http://www.embraceme.org). You can make a donation using one of the yellow envelopes at the back of either church, marking it 'Lent Appeal' and placing in the wall safe.

**Thank you.**

## Music for Holy Week

Good Friday - 19<sup>th</sup> April

6.30pm

St. John's, Abbeydale



The choir of Abbeydale and Millhouses and guests,  
St. John's Church, Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm with refreshments  
Tickets £6, on the door or from Rona on 0114 235 2575

**Summer  
Concert**



*SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S ABBEYDALE AND HOLY TRINITY, MILLHOUSES*

Palm Sunday – 14 April

Blessing of palms and Procession 10am St J

Tuesday 16 April

Service of Healing 7.30pm HT

Wednesday 17 April

Meditation – Journey to the Cross 7.30pm HT

Maundy Thursday – 18 April

Last Supper re-enactment and vigil 7.30pm HT

Good Friday – 19 April

Liturgy for Good Friday 10am St J

Good Friday Meditation 2pm St J

Music for Holy Week 6.30pm St J

Saturday 20 April

Easter Vigil & Service of Waiting 6.30pm HT

Easter Sunday – 21 April

First Eucharist of Easter 7.30am HT

All-age Easter Eucharist 10am St J

**Café Church**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 4pm



Holy Trinity Church Hall - all ages welcome



**Grace Food Bank Sheffield**

We welcome any donations in the box at the back of church or in the porch

To see what is needed, please go to

[www.gracefoodbanksheffield.org](http://www.gracefoodbanksheffield.org)



St. John the Evangelist  
Abbeydale Road South  
S17 3LE



Holy Trinity Millhouses  
Grove Road  
S7 2HB

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

The Revd Canon Peter Ingram (0114) 236 2838

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St. John the Evangelist

Parish of Abbeydale and Millhouses

Easter 2019



*Community of the Cross of Nails*

We are now members of the Community of the Cross of Nails. On 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018, our Parish of Abbeydale and Millhouses was presented with a Cross of Nails by Rev'd Canon Sarah Hills, Canon for Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral.



In 1940, when Coventry Cathedral was bombed, Provost Dick Howard vowed that rather than seeking revenge, they would seek reconciliation. He had the words '*Father, forgive*' engraved on the ruins of the cathedral, acknowledging that we are all in need of forgiveness. In the ruins were found charred wooden roof beams that had fallen into the shape of a cross, together with nails. The nails were formed into a cross and became the symbol of a community that started in 1974 and whose aims are threefold:

*Healing the wounds of history*

*Living with difference and valuing diversity*

*Building a culture of peace*

