

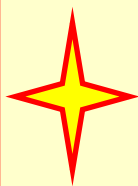
trio



The Parish Magazine of Abbeydale
and Millhouses

Christmas 2021

Parish of Abbeydale and Millhouses



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Valuing People

Caring for His World

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Until a new full-time priest is appointed there will
just be a **SUNDAY** Service

10.00 am Parish Communion

usually with music

alternating between

Holy Trinity and St. John's

SEE PAGE 12 for dates

*This service can be followed on 'Zoom'
or by phone — details p.12*

FOR other CHURCH EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES SEE PAGES 13 & 23

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

htmillhousesoffice@yahoo.co.uk

or Bev Ramsey 0114 249 0377

*(In an emergency, contact the Revd. Dr. Angie Lauener
236 2188)*

CHARITY NUMBER 1142485

From our Associate Priest, Angie...

What is a family?

This is the title of a book I remember reading in the '70s, written by Swiss author Edith Schaeffer. Each chapter looked at a different description of a family. I had to revisit the book to remind myself of most of the chapter titles because I had forgotten them. They included:

*An ecologically balanced environment
The birthplace of creativity
A formation centre for human relationships
A shelter in the time of storm
A perpetual relay of truth
An economic unit
An educational control
A museum of memories
A door that has hinges and a lock*

To me, some of these sound interesting, some intriguing, some functional or scientific or philosophical. Readers may find these titles interesting to ponder. The one that fascinated me, which has stayed with me for over 40 years, was 'A family is an ever-changing mobile'. Think of a mobile that has a number of parts connected and suspended and moving in a gentle breeze – each part in relation to the others but always changing. Families are collections of people, connected, ever-changing as generations come and go, new children are born and added, and as we all grow older, the relationships change. We share joys and sadnesses. The cared-for child may become a parent, grandparent, carer of elderly parents, sibling, cousin, auntie or uncle. I have experienced all of these, and I know it will continue to change as my children and grandchildren grow up.

Edith Schaeffer's descriptions were about biological families. We also talk about the church family – those of us connected by belonging to this parish of Abbeydale and Millhouses who all share a Christian faith. Within and without the church, there are other groupings of people who also become like families because of shared activities, interests and values, such as belonging to a choir or walking group or book group perhaps, and these lead to mutual care and looking out for each other.

Christmas is a season when many families make a special effort to be together, even though there may be stresses and strains and some find it a difficult time of year especially if loved ones are no longer present. At Christmas we especially remember the Holy Family – Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem where Jesus was born. They became a migrant family as they fled to Egypt to escape the death threat from King Herod, the jealous king who ordered the killing of all baby boys under two because he wanted no competition from this 'new born king' that he had heard of. In our Christmas events at our two churches – Holy Trinity and St. John's – we shall revisit the Christmas story in our services and events and in the Advent course on Zoom – Travelling Light, all listed in the Calendar in this edition of TRIO.

Looking forward, we shall begin Lent which takes us through a different part of Jesus' life. For our annual Lent appeal which will be launched on Shrove Tuesday – 1 March, we have decided to support Sheffield, City of Sanctuary. This is topical because of the recent visit to Sheffield of Little Amal, reminding us of the plight of child refugees, and also the plight of refugees from Afghanistan, some of whom have come to Sheffield. We want to support our city to be a place of welcome for all refugees and asylum seekers.

All are welcome this Christmas to come to any of our events and services as we celebrate again the birth of Jesus, God's great gift of love to all of us.

We wish you and your family a happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas.



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THE HOLY FAMILY

Christmas is all about the family, with the Holy Family at the heart of it. Ask most children, 'Who are your family?' and they may answer it's their mum, dad, stepmum or stepdad and brothers, sisters, stepbrothers or sisters and other relations. (Maybe the dog and cat, too!) A social group with a sense of belonging and love.

The Holy Family, like so many families today, were far from the idealised family of a married couple with two children, but they were a social group with a sense of belonging and love. Angel Gabriel appeared to a young girl, the Virgin Mary and said,



"Hail, O favoured one, the Lord is with you...Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus." (Luke 1, vs. 26-31).

Like today, being a young, unmarried mother can bring its problems and requires a lot of determination and courage. 2000 years ago it was much worse—including

being socially totally unacceptable and bringing shame on the family.

But Mary, is a central figure in Christianity, and often regarded as a role model for mothers. She had amazing courage and determination, accepting what the Angel told her and showing obedience and faith. Mary was engaged to Joseph, reputed to be much older than her, and knowing the baby was not his, he could so easily have abandoned her. However he showed tremendous courage and a trust in God after an angel also appeared to him and told him to love and care for Mary.

As we know, Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem for the Roman census. All the lodging places were full, but a kindly inn keeper took pity on the couple and offered what hospitality he could. Mary gave birth to Jesus in a stable which was at least warm and dry.

'Posada' is a tradition that started in Mexico as part of the traditional fiestas in the nine days leading up to Christmas Eve. 'Posada' is Spanish for 'inn' and it celebrates the journey of Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem, where the Holy Family was welcomed by a kind stranger who finds them room – even if it is a homely stable instead of a guest room. In the 'Posada' a set of nativity figures, representing the Holy Family, is taken from house to house, where different families act as host and offer shelter for the night. We have, in past years, performed the Posada as part of our Church Christmas celebrations, and it was an enjoyable and sociable experience. Families welcomed each other, as well as the Holy Family, and offered food, drink and hospitality. Very much what a family is about: shelter, talking to each other, making sure everyone is all right.

The Holy Family is the catalyst for all this. There are many parallels. Jesus told us to '*...love one another, as I have loved you*' (John 15, v.12). Meeting each other and reaching out to each other on life's journey, however long that might be.

Although the Holy Family is usually portrayed in art as just Mary, Joseph and the Infant Jesus, we know from the Gospels that Jesus also had brothers and a sister, so this family grew. They moved to Nazareth, now one of the largest cities in northern Israel. Jesus grew up here, with his family, before starting his ministry.



Most mothers care for their children throughout their lives and Mary was no exception, creating that vital social group where her children were nurtured and loved. Also sadly, like most families, they endured sadness and grief but Mary's trust in God's loving kindness gave her the courage to face whatever her family had to endure.

C.J.

**What are YOU Hoping
for this Christmas?**

Claire

I'm hoping to have a Christmas this year. Last year I was in hospital and missed being with the family and enjoying the Christmas dinner.

Alan

That as many of the usual Choir activities as possible can take place, even if we're still under some restrictions.

We've learnt over the last few months how to sing with a degree of social distancing. Music is a very important part of Christmas for the Choirs.

Vanessa

Spending the day with all my children.

Nikki

I'm looking forward to going to Carols by Candlelight, having a trip to Castle Howard to see the decorations, going to a Christmas 'do' and having friends round for mulled wine.

Jean

That we will be able to keep covid and other illnesses down so that our NHS staff and emergency services are not so pressured.

Julia

That family members will be able to come over from France, which couldn't happen last year because of covid restrictions.

That families will be able to be together .

Catherine

I'm hoping that I will be able to have a Christmas dinner with my sons at Christmas this year as in 2020 we weren't able to all be together. Because of Covid restrictions and our work commitments, we finally had our turkey dinner, complete with pop-up Christmas tree, crackers, hats and Christmas music in September.

Keith

Jean

Prayer

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at
Nazareth
the life of an earthly home:
help us to live as the holy family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us at last to our home in
heaven

I hope that everyone involved in the supply chain; ships' crews, long distance drivers and local delivery people, who have all suffered and worked incredibly hard, will be able to have less pressure and a better

Jean

Jenny

Last year, Father Christmas flew over our house in his light aircraft as I stood in the garden, energetically waving a checked tea towel to attract the attention of his passenger. This Christmas, I hope my daughter's fiancé can drive her down to

And finally... from our biggest ever family Christmas

31



2019

Pat



2020

The smallest ever... just 2 of us

2021 ????

I just hope and pray that many of us, together with families all over the world, will be able to get together to celebrate the joy and love that supportive families bring one another — and this includes our church family in Abbeydale and Millhouses

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The nursery will re-open in early February



TALES FROM A MUSICAL FAMILY

I have been a member of the church choir for the past twenty years or so joined, for a while, by my late wife, Judy, and, when they were younger, on occasions by our daughter Jo and son John.

However, our life in music goes back much further. Judy and I met through a mutual love of musical theatre, especially the works of Gilbert & Sullivan. Judy had an outstanding contralto voice and had the chance of a professional career with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company but chose marriage and a family instead.

We met during an amateur production of Gounod's "Faust" with Opera 14 in 1973. She suggested I join City Comic Opera whose main repertoire was G & S. We performed with them for the next twenty years, taking principal roles in their annual productions at the Montgomery Theatre. We were also members of South Yorkshire Opera, Intake Methodist Musical Society and Dore G & S Society. We regularly received invitations to appear as guest soloists with musical societies in the region.

When Jo and John were born, they soon got used to being part of a musical family and were still in primary school when they first appeared on stage, and not just in school plays! Indeed, for some years, John was a member of a children's musical theatre group and competed in local music festivals with some success while Jo joined IMMS. In time, Jo graduated to doing the soubrette roles in G & S. John went to Trinity College of Music where he set up his own company, Charles Court Opera, which has gained a reputation as experts at small scale, boutique productions of operas and G & S. He is now a professional opera singer and has sung principal roles with Opera North, Scottish Opera, Welsh National Opera and is currently singing Captain Corcoran in "HMS Pinafore" with English National Opera.

But, I get ahead of events. Since the mid-90s, we regularly attended the annual International G & S Festival in Buxton and Harrogate. We have taken part in amateur shows from Youth Productions, (which John later directed), to Bus Pass Opera (over 60s!). John twice won the award for Best Male Voice (2004/5) before turning professional and joining the festival's pro company in a number of roles.



Ready to do an after dinner entertainment for a family friend (in blue)

Meanwhile, Judy, Jo and I continued performing in concerts and operetta and even pantomime (Manor Operatic Society) and music hall. More recently, Judy, Jo and I joined Holy Trinity Handbell Ringers and even ventured into straight theatre with TOADS, joined sometimes by Jo and her husband, David. When Covid-19 caused lockdown, everything stopped. Judy and Jo were in rehearsal with Dore G & S and Judy and I rehearsing a play with TOADS. Very sadly, Judy passed away last October and is surely a member of the 'heavenly choirs'. As lockdown has eased, rehearsals for Dore G & S and TOADS have resumed. John has managed to keep CCO ticking over through social media and filming performances until live theatre began again in the summer.

As for the future, I will carry on doing my bit as long as I can in the church choir, handbells and TOADS; Jo will perform with Dore G & S as family and work commitments allow. John will be the standard bearer for the family and go on to fulfil his mother's dream. Favourite parts? Judy's was Lady Jane in "Patience" (G & S); mine, Pooh-Bah in "The Mikado"; Jo's, Iolanthe in "Iolanthe" (G & S), and John - whatever he is doing at the time.

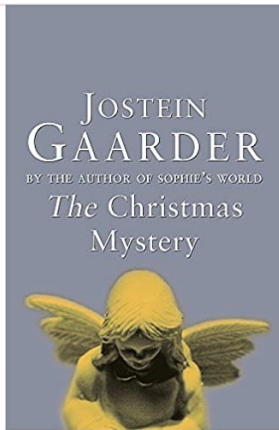
It can be a tiring life, rehearsing three or four evenings a week so that everything is 'alright on the night', but it helps to keep us fit and active. Working closely with teams of talented people who look out for each other through all the ups and downs of life is like one large family. In that we have been greatly blessed.

John Savournin

Book Review

The Christmas Mystery

by Jostein Gaarder



Jostein Gaarder is a Norwegian writer best known for *Sophie's World*, an engaging mystery story which was also designed to be an introduction to the world of philosophy and how philosophers have shaped our understanding of the world and how we relate to each other. The mechanism for this was the question '*who are you?*', asked in a letter to Sophie from an unknown philosopher. The book explores the answers from the perspective of a young teenager which is a great way of cutting through the circumlocutions of philosophical treatise!

The focus of '**The Christmas Mystery**' is essentially the same – but this time written through the familiar Christmas story, told like a storybook advent calendar over the first 24 days of December. The starting point of the story is in the early 1990s in Norway when a young boy called Joachim and his grandfather whom he called Papa are shopping for an advent calendar on the last day of November.

In an old bookshop they see one calendar with chocolate pieces behind each door and another with pictures but suddenly Joachim sees a much older and dusty calendar with beautiful pictures and he asks if he can have that. The bookseller has never seen it before and says it must have been left by someone called John who sells flowers and sometimes leaves unexpected items for the bookseller. He gives the advent calendar to Joachim saying that it must have been meant for him.

That's the start of a story which unfolds each day when a door is opened and as well as a picture, out pops a story for each day which is about a little girl who finds herself chasing a lamb through the streets of Norway some 50 years earlier. It turns into a journey through Europe to the Holy Land and back through time to the nativity scene. But it is also a story of a real person – Elisabet – who is the person chasing the lamb and who has been missing for 50 years. And the story ends on Christmas Day both at the nativity scene of 2000 years previously and in the contemporary Norway where Elisabet is reunited with her mother.

So what is it about? It's about family and ties which transcend time and generations. But it is also about all people in every part of the world who are part of the human family and how they are connected. And in Gaarder's own words, most of all it is about how there is always something new to discover and the more we understand, the more we see in things around us. And the more we see in things around us, the more we understand about our remarkable world. A message which seems highly relevant to Cop 26.

This is a great story to read to your children or grandchildren over Advent and I defy you to read it without a tear in your eye! Do try and find the original version which was published in Britain in 1996 and which has exquisite coloured illustrations by Rosemary Wells.

Peter Lauener



Many readers will have experienced belonging to the world wide family of Scouts and Guides. Young people continue to enjoy and benefit from their time in the Movements.

Millhouses Scout Gets Top Award

Congratulations to Scout Kiran Rowntree!

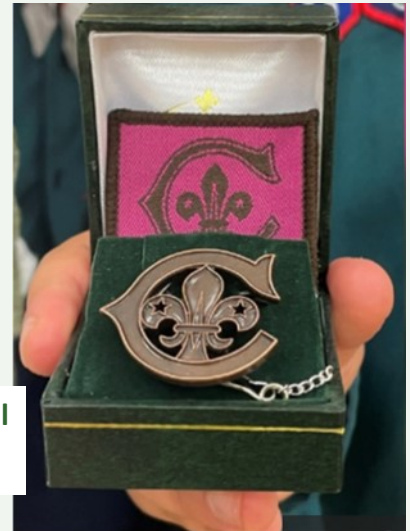
Kiran, a member of the 180th Sheffield (Holy Trinity Millhouses) Scout Group, has been awarded the Scout Association's prestigious Cornwell Badge. Despite having Duchenne muscular dystrophy, Kiran is an extremely active and enthusiastic Scout who loves camping, going on expeditions and completing badges.



Kiran was presented with his award on 23rd September by South Yorkshire County Commissioner Neil McKay live on BBC Look North!

The Cornwell Badge is awarded in respect of **'pre-eminently high character and devotion to duty, together with great courage and endurance'**. It is named after Jack Cornwell, a Scout and boy sailor who was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his gallantry in the Battle of Jutland in 1916 at the age of 16. It is an extremely rare award. We believe that since its introduction in 1916 Sheffield has only had four* other recipients of the Badge.

The Cornwell Badge



Kiran's award recognises his great fortitude, determination and dedication to Scouting in the face of a serious medical condition, and being an inspiration to others.

Kiran was "very happy and proud" to receive the Cornwell Badge. So you should be Kiran. Well done!

Andrew Bullock
Cub Scout Leader

** One of the four holders is Andrew himself!*

Editor





Worship at Holy Trinity and St. John's

During the interregnum it is not possible for us to hold as many services as we would like, but both churches are open during the week for private prayer, H.T. 10am-4.30pm, St. J's 10am - 4pm

December

Sun 12th	10am	Advent 3 Parish Communion St. J Bishop Sophie
Tues 14th	7.30pm	Christmas Concert St. J
Sun 19th	10am	Advent 4 Parish Communion H.T.
	6.30pm	Nine Lessons & Carols HT
Fri 24th		Christmas Eve
	5.00pm	Christingle St.J
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion at H.T. but 'zoomed' to St. J's



Sat 25th		Christmas Day
	9.30am	Parish Communion St.J
	10.00am	Parish Communion H.T. Archdeacon of Sheffield Malcolm Chamberlain
Sun 26th		NO SERVICES

January

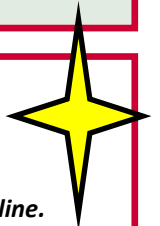
Sun 2nd	10am	Parish Communion H.T. Chris Stebbing
Sun 9th	10am	Parish Communion St. J
Sun 16th	10am	Parish Communion H.T.
Sun 23rd	10am	Parish Communion St. J
Sun 30th	10am	Parish Communion St.J

February

Sun 6th	10am	All-Age worship H.T.
Sun 13th	10am	Parish Communion St.J
Sun 20th	10am	Parish Communion H.T.
Sun 27th	10am	Parish Communion St.J

March

Tues 1st	7.0pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancakes and launch of Lent Appeal
Wed 2nd		ASH WEDNESDAY - Services t.b.a.
Sun 6th	10am	All-Age worship H.T
Sun 13th	10am	Parish Communion St.J
Sun 20th	10am	Parish Communion H.T. Emma Percy



Our 10am service is available through zoom. The link remains unchanged:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6745323083?pwd=eitkeVdiODV4S1NpRzJvV0ZxbTd6UT09>

Meeting ID: 674 532 3083 Passcode: AMCHURCH

Phone 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 # Enter participant ID followed by # Enter the passcode, if needed
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Once you have dialled the first number the phone instructions are very clear..

For up-to-date information please contact:

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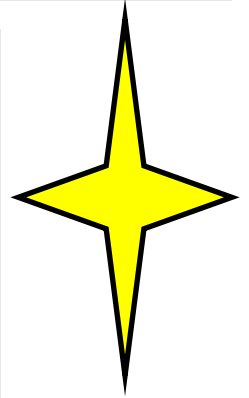
Other things we are doing in the parish.....

Christmas Celebrations..... Favourite are back!

Nine lessons and carols (at Holy Trinity) and **Nativity Service with Christingles**

(St.John's). See opposite page for details

Mainly due to the interregnum, there are fewer Christmas services but also, sadly, Audrey Cutts, (and Fran Haydon), have retired from 'staging' Holy Trinity's children's Nativity on Christmas Eve. Heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in encouraging, coaxing, and 'wowing' children and their parents for many years in the delightful retelling of the wondrous story of Jesus' birth.



Joy to the World!

**1st March SHROVE
TUESDAY at H.T.**

The launch of our 2022

Lent Appeal — with panckes of course!!

We will be supporting the independent charity



City of Sanctuary Sheffield

Creating a Culture of Welcome

In 2007, with the support of the City Council, Sheffield became the **UK's first City of Sanctuary** for asylum-seekers and refugees—a city that takes pride in the welcome it offers to people in need of safety. Currently it is very involved with welcoming and supporting the recent arrivals from Afghanistan.

Help us show real love and compassion

Sat 11th December in Holy Trinity Church

Sterndale Singers offer a selection of
Christmas Carols - old and new - with festive refreshments to follow. Tickets cost £8 payable on the door.

The concert will last an hour from 7.30pm

A big **THANK YOU** to all who are supporting our 'Save our planet' **'Harvesting of Throw-aways'**.

The boxes at St. John's and Holy Trinity are emptied regularly— (from the number of empty blister packs most of the parish are taking pills!!).

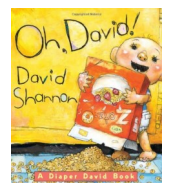
In addition to the towels, stamps and electrical leads, we are now collecting **hearing devices**. but **'Vision Overseas'** no longer want specs.. **EVERYTHING** goes for recycling and helping folk less fortunate than us.

Children in need...

Many inner-city children have NO BOOKS of their own...

Books4Home is a scheme to collect good quality children's books and donate to children who have none. Abbeydale Rotarians are collecting for a school in Pitsmoor.

Please contact Pat Jackson, Editor, (details on p2), who will collect - or leave books in church!



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NEWS FROM MILLHOUSES METHODIST CHURCH



We wish a happy and blessed Advent and Christmas to all readers of TRIO.



*We are delighted that this year we are once again able to hold our **Christmas Tree Festival**, while of course being careful to keep our arrangements 'Covid safe'. The tree lights will be switched on at our **Advent Sunday morning service, 28th November, 10.30.am.** Look out for our opening times on the church notice board.*

Our main Christmas services will be:

Sunday 12th December, 6.30.pm. Carol Service with John Wade Singers.

Christmas Day, 10.00.am, Family Worship led by Revd Dr Claude Kimpinde.

Here is a Christmas message from our new minister, Claude...

Shalom!

I am delighted to be given this opportunity during the current global challenge to reflect on our families in TRIO Parish Magazine, on behalf of Millhouses Methodist Church as their serving presbyter.

Friends, experiencing abundant joy and dynamic power is possible for every Christian today. But first, we need to focus on the life and personality of Christ.

I am using some quotations from Malcolm Guite's wonderful poem based on 'O come Emmanuel', in which he says:

"O come, O come, and be our God-with-us"

In my childhood home, Christmas Day had its own traditional routine and unique excitement. We opened our door to all the multicoloured family circle and we placed the figure of the infant Jesus into our crib. He is born today! Rejoice and be glad! Christmas gives tangible reality to the love that lies at the heart of creation, the love that is God, that holds all things in being.

I remember vividly when I landed in South Africa 16th February 2020. On 20th February the Covid-19 pandemic struck and the country went into lockdown. You will recall your own personal experience during those dark hours and days. Many of us lost loved ones, friends, colleagues and neighbours but during all the uncertainty there was a 'heart of heaven' beating in the earth, "tiny hope within our hopelessness"

Malcolm Guite offers the wonderful image that unfolds for us the mystery of grace and through the birth of Jesus, our wounded world is made a womb for the birth of the Kingdom of God.

"Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame,"

Let Psalm 91:1 be our portion this Christmas "He who dwells in the secret place of the highest shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty."

In this 'world without', may you know the 'with-ness' of God.

In this world of darkness, may you find the 'hidden spring of light'.

And may the 'heart of heaven-beating in the earth' hold for you the promise of wounds healed and a world made new.

I wish many blessings for you and your families this Christmas and into the New Year.

We look forward to worshipping once again with our Anglican friends in the New Year.

Yours in Christ

The Revd Dr Claude M. Kimpinde



Claude and his family

For up-to-date news please see our noticeboards and website:

www.millhousesmethodistchurch.org.uk



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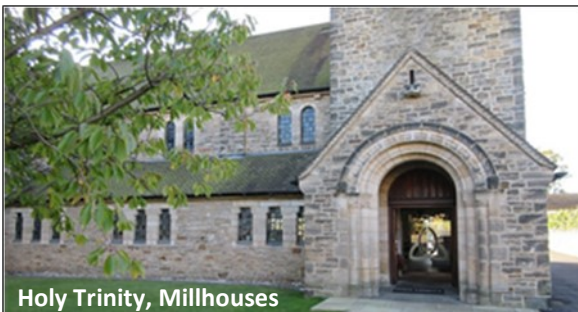
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Email: styeardley@btinternet.com

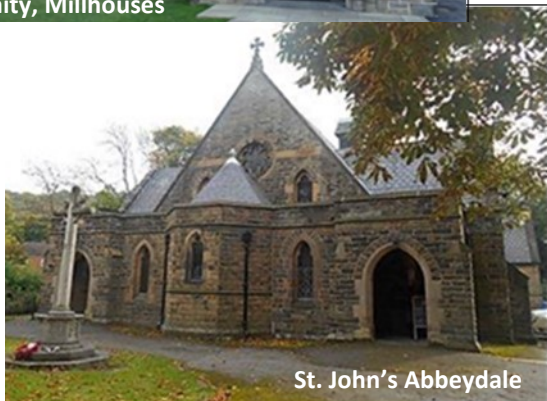
Interregnum – *What does this mean?*

In the Church of England, the phrase is used to describe the period before a new parish priest is appointed to fill a vacancy. During an interregnum, the administration of the parish is the responsibility of the churchwardens.

Our parish of Abbeydale and Millhouses is currently in interregnum because as you probably know, Peter Ingram our much-loved vicar retired at the end of May 2021 in order to spend more quality time with family and friends. He had served with distinction in the parish for over 15 years during which time he had successfully overseen the integration of the two separate parishes of St John's Abbeydale and Holy Trinity, Millhouses.



Holy Trinity, Millhouses



St. John's Abbeydale

The parish is now looking to appoint an Oversight Minister for the Mission Area of Abbeydale and Millhouses, in the Deanery of Ecclesall, (twinned with Attercliffe Deanery), which geographically covers Millhouses, Abbeydale Road South, Bradway, lower Dore and part of Totley. They will work alongside the Oversight Minister recently appointed for the parish of Dore and a new team at Totley All Saints.

Parish Profile

The first stage in this process is the production of a Parish Profile, which in essence acts as a job description. It describes the parish in much detail, to hopefully catch the eye of any clergy thinking about making a career change. It also stresses the benefits of coming to work and minister in our beautiful and very green part of Sheffield, with its potential for a very satisfying and supportive ministry.

The Bishop of Sheffield, Bishop Pete Wilcox has written a supportive statement for inclusion in the profile in which he says that he is praying that the Lord will bring us a person with a strong sense of vocation to this task at this time; a person of faith and hope and love in God; a person who laughs easily and has a zest for life in Christ; a person with a sense of adventure, unafraid of failure and reliant on the grace of the Holy Spirit.



Our vision is for a minister who will drive the parish forward, enabling us to reach out to the families within our parish whilst understanding the traditions we hold dear and allowing the people of the parish to realise their calling, in whatever form, and to grow in their love of God. We are seeking someone who will become involved in engaging with the community and will help us, as a congregation to grow in our mission.

The mission of the Parish of Abbeydale and Millhouses is to Love God, Value People and Care for His World.

We endeavour to:

- Be welcoming and inclusive in our activities
- Be joyful in worship
- Be outward-looking in service and in mission
- Be driven by vision
- Encourage a sense of vocation and ministry among our members
- Value the contribution that all can make
- Live in a way that respects the environment

And to demonstrate them in our regular Church life through all that follows.



A service with both choirs at Holy Trinity

Our love and worship of God within the parish is centred on the 10.00am Sunday Parish Communion, supported by our church choirs. An All-Age Communion service is held once a month at each church where we especially welcome families to a less formal act of worship, with the younger generation taking an active part in our service, and with perhaps a church music group playing.



From trumpet to an accordion this all-age group provides a musical compliment to many services

Multi-use halls adjacent to both churches and the Parish Centre on Dobcroft Road have Wi-Fi, good kitchen facilities, meeting rooms and other useful amenities and are all well used by local community groups. They are available for hire, for parties, dances, musical performances and other social events.

A very diverse range of groups and organisations currently use the halls on a regular basis. These include Ballet, Badminton, Bowling, Brownies, Caledonian and Scottish Country Dancing, Keep Fit, Line Dancing, Mothers Union, Mother and Toddler groups, Probus, Rainbows, Yoga and a Snooker Club which meets at St John's Hall on a Monday evening in its own dedicated snooker room with full-sized table. A long-established Luncheon Club meets on a Thursday morning at St John's Hall, serving approximately twenty lunches with associated social activity to needy local residents.

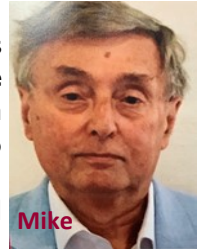
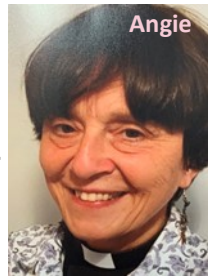


The main hall at St John's

(see next page)

We are blessed with a part-time, self-supporting Associate Priest, Angie Lauener, who was within our congregation at Holy Trinity Church before her calling. Over the years we have supported at least five of our congregation to follow their calling into ministry. We have also welcomed and supported many curates in the Parish who have since moved on to full-time ministry. Recently a member of our congregation, supported by the parish, has been studying at the Diocese of Sheffield Foundation course at St. Peter's college.

As well as Angie, we are also blessed with our Reader, Mike Morton-Thorpe who is giving us immense support during this interregnum, as well as our pastoral workers who work extremely hard in maintaining contact with those unable to attend services. Home communions are given, visits to nursing homes undertaken and countless phone calls made, to ensure as much contact as possible is given to those who are vulnerable, especially in these unprecedented times.



We are a very welcoming and caring Parish who enjoy being together - not many weeks go past without us all joining in celebrating a birthday, special anniversary, or some sort of achievement.

As an outward looking parish, we constantly strive to ensure that our presence within the community is known and enjoyed by all and that the churches, and our other buildings, are places where comfort can be found in times of need, for fellowship and friendships to develop, and where the love of God can be felt and explored. We are now working towards a re-ordering of the church of St. John's.

Phase1 of the overall reordering proposals to make the building on Abbeydale Road South more accessible and welcoming, (including the removal of fixed seating), was undertaken in 2015. An exciting, major Phase 2 proposal is currently included in our 2022 budget to provide new facilities for the wider community as well as for a broader range of church and social activities.

Recruitment Process

Recruiting a new priest is not a simple procedure and it takes time to find the right person. The Parish profile for our new minister has been written and approved by the PCC. The parish representatives, (Vanessa Boddy and Liz Frost), have also completed the role description and person specification for the post, and these have been approved by Diocesan Human Resources.

By the time this is published all should have been approved and signed by the Archdeacon, who is responsible for overseeing the recruitment process.

An advert will be placed in the Church Times and on the Diocesan Website from which a shortlist of candidates will be drawn up. The Bishop will normally meet them and then pass his recommendation on to the Archdeacon and churchwardens. The final candidates will be invited to an interview and a guided tour of the parish, including the spacious and family-friendly vicarage on Millhouses Lane, and have an informal chat with our wardens and clergy.

(Concluded)

Interregnum....

It is likely that it will be mid 2022 before our Oversight Minister is appointed, and in the meantime, we are operating well with Angie and Mike, ably assisted by our various friends and colleagues from the diocese.

I will give an update in the next Spring issue of TRIO, but please pray for our churchwardens and clergy who will have some difficult decisions to make in the near future.

Andrew Horsefield

St John's Lunch Club



At the beginning of October St. John's lunch club opened up once more after a closure lasting over 18 months because of Covid. The members were overjoyed to be back together. They had missed this weekly outing and the chance to be with other people for a friendly conversation and a hot meal. Lockdown had emphasised somewhat sharply the immeasurable benefit social contact has upon the mental and physical health of everyone especially the elderly.

Lunch club has been running for many years with the support of parishioners. The members are welcomed with tea or coffee and biscuits. After a chance to have a chat and catch up with the news there is a game of bingo. Sometimes when funds allow it a chair aerobics session has been organised. At noon there is a two course lunch most of which has been freshly cooked in the kitchen. This is usually on the Sunday dinner and hot pudding pattern: something that's not easy to make for one person at home. After another hot drink it's time to go home.

Transport 17 runs two minibuses which collect members from the Bradway, Dore, Topley and Millhouses areas. The drivers and supporters are there to help people from their door steps onto the buses and from there into the hall. A lift for wheel chairs at the back of the bus helps those who feel unable to use the bus steps.

At the moment the lunch club has 16 members. There is a growing waiting list consisting mainly of readers of the Trio magazine. However, it is not possible to increase the numbers for the time being. ***This is because the lunch club finds itself desperately short of volunteers.*** The aim is to recruit more helpers so that a monthly rota can be operated. The job entails setting the tables, serving drinks and food and then helping to clear away afterwards. A volunteer cook would be a godsend as the club has prided itself upon the provision of fresh food rather than ready meals. Please consider whether you could give a few hours to support lunch club on a Thursday morning to help keep this valued and valuable service operating.

Please feel free to pop in at any time between 10am and 1pm and have a chat. Or contact Jane Blockeel on 2366861 email: Tblockeel@aol.com. As well as lunch club, **T17** welcomes offers of support either as a driver or helper.



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RETIREMENT BLUES?

When retirement comes around it can sometimes have an effect that is often not anticipated. Once all those 'jobs I am going to do when I retire' have been done, the garden tidier now than ever, and the decorating finished, many people start to miss the interaction they once had with their former colleagues, the sense of being valuable and of being able to contribute, or they simply miss having a routine, something constant that they can relate to.

There are many organisations that can provide this 'fixed point', and the family of the church is among the most prominent. In addition, there are U3A courses and Rotary Clubs as well as activity-based clubs like bowls, or walking clubs, plus of course interest-specific clubs, be it history, gardening or even model railways.

A more informal alternative to those is a PROBUS club. Set up in the 1960s as an offshoot of Rotary, but without the commitment to service and fund-raising, these clubs are for retired or semi-retired **PRO**fessional or **BUS**inessmen and aim for a more informal, family-like approach.

Nowadays, a more relaxed interpretation of eligibility is applied with many members having retired from other fields, for example, the Public Services. The clubs provide gentle mental stimulation by having a speaker on a different topic at each meeting, but most of all they provide friendship and comradeship for people of similar interests and backgrounds.



There are a number of PROBUS clubs in Sheffield, and at the heart of this parish is **The Monday Probus Club**, Millhouses, which meets at the Holy Trinity Church Hall, in Grove Road, every Monday morning. Meetings start at 10.00am with time for tea or coffee and a chat before the speaker at about 10.30am. The meetings end at noon. Members may bring guests, male or female. The hall is wheelchair accessible and has a hearing loop system installed. The cost is remarkably cheap, with Annual Membership for all 45 meetings at only £70 - as we go to press. There is also a lunch club, and occasionally visits are made to places of interest.

Our future programme of speakers is available to view on our website <https://probusclub.net/sheffield-millhouses/>, or for further information you can email:

sec.millhousesprobus@gmail.com

but if you wish you can just turn up to one of our meetings, (without charge for the first two or three), where you can be sure of a warm 'family' welcome.

It may help blow away 'retirement blues'.

Roger Emerson



Ann Smedley spotted this on a pavement in Filey. If anyone can shed any light on its reason for being there I would love to hear. *Editor.*
Contact details at the bottom of p2.

In Lighter Mood.....

I can't tell a Lutz from a Salko!



Many of us (often with our families), during the winter months, will enjoy watching ice skating and dancing, on TV, with some hope that a new Torvill and Dean pairing, or an individual up to the standard of Robin Cousins, will give opportunity for the Union Flag to be waving again at the top of the winners' pole.

Now, I enjoy both the singles and the pairs/dancing competitions, but there are several technical aspects that I have never really understood so I have tried to find out more about them. After all, several million people watch these sports during the major international competitions, so I thought it would not be too difficult to find someone to explain things to me.

In the process I have discovered two very strange things. Firstly, those who watch regularly seem to know certain facts such as that when a skater spins around on the spot (whether on one skate or two), they are expected to stay on that spot and will lose points if they drift. They know that the skating pattern must reflect the mood of the music, or if they jump into the air, they must not land on both skates at once. But certain other technical aspects seem as much of a mystery to others as they are to me.

Nobody seems able to explain to me why a commentator will watch someone take off into a jump, spin around two or three times, land correctly, then comment that they have done a successful double or triple loop, then a minute or two later describe what seems to me to be exactly the same type of jump and spin, and call it a triple salko or lutz.

My second puzzle is this. The same people who can't explain the difference between a lutz and a salko will watch these jumps and spins and comment confidently "She's messed that one up" or "He'll lose points for that". They don't know what's happening exactly, but they know it was not done the way it should be.



I could go on but I'm away to watch a rugby international. I will enjoy the exaltation of seeing a top class fly half receive the ball from some secondary play, sell a dummy to his opposite number, then pass it out to the backs until it gets to the wing who races 30-40 metres to the opposition's 25 metre line, then finishes with a neat grubber kick and touches down for a magnificent try. Now that's very clear and straightforward.

Who would have guessed? One of my favourite pastimes is looking through the daily papers for examples of someone seen to be in a responsible position saying something that is clearly self-evident. A newspaper letter shows others also observe these treasured examples of what John Cleese as Basil Faulty used to call the "blindingly obvious". The letter quoted the former Chairman of Tesco commenting on a £250 million shortfall as saying "Things are always unnoticed until they are noticed". Awesome logic.

Brian Cranwell



Regular Parish Activities – for special events see p.15



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Carers and Toddlers

Thurs 10.00am Tots - HT
Contact: Pat Kirbyshaw - 236 2643
Frid 10.00am Carers and
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Contact: Lucy Wilson - 073 9982
1677



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



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Tblockeel@aol.com

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 0370



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

Parish Centre - Dobcroft Rd

Monday 6.45 pm Cubs
7.30 pm Explorers
Thursday 7.00 pm Scouts
Friday 6.15 pm Beavers



Contacts: Andrew Bullock (Beavers & Cubs)
ajbullock@blueyonder.co.uk
Jeremy Holmes (Scouts & Explorers) 0770 344 1613
jeremypiglet@gmail.com



Handbells

Wednesdays 8.00 pm at St. John's
Contact Margaret Ibbetson 236 4184
New ringers warmly welcomed

Mothers' UNION

Suspended until further notice

Church Choir

Practices are currently held at
9.30am Sunday, i.e. before the
10am service
(see calendar p14 for venue!).
New members welcome



Contacts: see Music Directors, p2



COFFEE MORNINGS
are hoping to resume again
in the new year
See website calendar or
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
at.....*

INDOOR Carpet BOWLS

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Easter Edition of TRIO

DEADLINE for articles

Friday 4th February 2022

Published 4th March 2022

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