

This might bring back memories for some.

Whitsuntide Celebrations 1940s to 1960s



*A Whit
Walk in
Sheffield
c1940s*

'Whit Sunday is the seventh Sunday after Easter, commemorating Pentecost. Back in the late 1940s, it was a really important time when all the churches, largely in the north of England, came together as the centre of community life. Here in Sheffield we children always had new clothes, worn on Whit Sunday itself. After the Sunday, these were put away 'for best'. Part of the tradition was that the Sunday School children went out round the pubs singing hymns to raise funds for the church.

Whit Monday was the fun day with a big parade organised by all the Nonconformist churches in each area. It was a very busy and happy occasion, everyone joined in.

In the 1960s I was a Sunday School teacher so, as an adult, I was part of the organising group for the day. We always started early. I made

breakfast for all the young men who marked out spaces for each church to occupy in Firth Park. Then we all went down to the church to prepare for the Whit Walk. We gathered at a meeting point along the parade route and waited for the group from our church to appear before joining them. Each church had its own banner, a marching band and a Sunday School queen at the head of the procession. The Boys' and Girls' Brigade bands were resplendent in their uniforms. Everyone else followed behind. In the heyday of the parade, people packed the route to watch, sometimes as many as six deep! It was a great place to meet people you hadn't seen for years.

At the park we sang hymns and said prayers. Then, after a quick lunch at home, we rushed back for children's games and a football match between boys and girls. In the afternoon we held a Sunday school tea with potted meat, jelly and other treats. There were always more children there than came to Sunday School! The final event at the end of the day was a social evening at our church with a bit of dancing and music...and then home by 10pm. Phew!

Written by a resident of Sheffield



St Cross Newsletter

June 2025

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The Vicar writes.....

Dear Friends

I have recently read of an instance of an 8 year old boy in an RE lesson who, when told of the Ascension, asked the killer question: What happened to Jesus when he went into orbit? It reminded me of my own questions about the Ascension at a time when I was asking particular questions about my faith around sixteen years ago. From that thought process I came to believe that the Ascension could principally be understood as being symbolic, for Jesus had to return to the fullest presence of the Father after the Resurrection. The gospels do give us parallels between Jesus and those pillars of the Old Testament, Moses and Elijah. When Elijah handed over the mantle of being God's chosen prophet to Elisha we are told he had a very dramatic ascent to heaven in a chariot. That question of what had happened to Jesus stayed with me for a long time because scripture does suggest that natural phenomena can be the media of divine revelation: God calling Moses through the burning bush is just one example. I've often described moments like this as being times when the veil between heaven and earth gets thinner; temporary portals open up the divine world

to human experience. And I think the Ascension and the Resurrection are such times too. A time when God 'breaks in' and the natural orders of the Universe are modified to reveal the sacred.

We can see God in all creation and wonder at nature's workings, the Aurora Borealis being just one example. You may recall Paul's speech to the Athenians (Acts 16) when he challenged the multiculturalism of the day, and he declared that the God who made the world and everything in it does not live in shrines made by human hands – and to summarise, he said that God is not far from each one of us for in him we live and move and have our being.

It seems to me, as we live in a sacred universe where everything is interconnected, that there are those times when the sacred is more obvious to us.

In the Church year following on from Easter and the Ascension we also remember Pentecost: the promise given to the disciples of the gift of the Holy Spirit which would be the catalyst for the birth of Christ's Church. All of these things remind us of God's love for us, and that the Good News of Jesus is that he will also lead his people where he has gone.

Yours, in Christ

Paul

*The setup of the Taizé
Service for Ascension
Day*



Diary for June

Mondays

2-4pm Monday Together in the Parish Room

Fellowship, refreshments and activities supporting the work of the church.

Monday 9th June

2pm Vino presents Panama & Pimms—a summer's afternoon of light seasonal music, fellowship and refreshments in the Parish Room. **Tickets £10** - in aid of church funds - available from members of Monday Together or 01565 632294

Tuesday 10 June

7.30pm Lectio Divina (on Teams)

Sunday 15 June

6.30pm Choral Evensong with the Deanery Choir - refreshments served before the service.

Thursday 19 June

2pm Mothers' Union

Wednesday 25 June

7pm PCC Meeting

Sunday 29 June

10.30am Ordination of Mike Duncombe, our new curate, in Chester Cathedral

Revd Philip Robinson will officiate at our 8.45am and 10am services that day.

We will welcome Mike with a faith lunch on Sunday 13th July.

There were no Occasional Offices in May