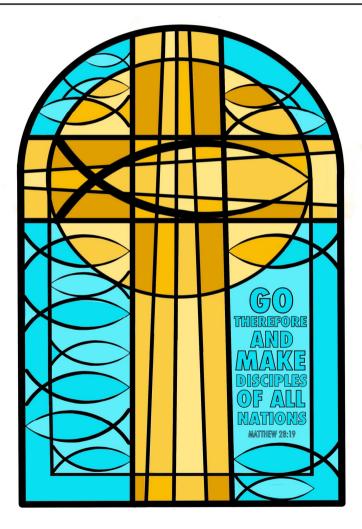
### Our Parish

### Aston-Cum-Aughton

**July 2025** 



If you would like to make a donation towards the costs of producing this magazine, please contact the Editor 07950 412753









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### On why people complain to the Vicar - and how to ignore them.

The Rectory St James the Least of All



My dear nephew Darren,

So, you have received your first letter of complaint. I am not wholly unsympathetic with your complainant, as attempting to marry the bride to the best man would have created havoc with the seating arrangements at the reception. However, you must learn that receiving letters of complaint is an integral part of the ordained ministry. After 50 years of parish life, the number of such letters I have received are now held in bound volumes

The anonymous ones you will receive, invariably written in green ink on lined note paper, can be safely consigned to your wastepaper basket, along with all mail, from whatever source, labelled 'Urgent'. You will receive letters complaining that you did not pray for someone who was in hospital, regardless of the fact that you knew nothing of it. Probably by the next post, you will receive a letter complaining that you did pray for someone in hospital – when they had wanted to keep their cosmetic surgery secret. Those who regard themselves as guardians of doctrinal purity will write complaining of the heresies contained in the previous Sunday's sermon. These can be filed with those letters that complain that your sermons are too short, along with those who complain that they are too long.

The hourly striking of the church clock is a perennial favourite for complaints. I usually reply by saying that we are currently exploring the possibility of getting it to strike the quarters too.

Letters of complaint will arrive in November, complaining that the church is too cold, so making prayer impossible. Others will drop on the doormat in April saying that it is too hot, so making prayer impossible. In Spring, some will write that the churchyard should be mown more often, while others will complain that it is mown too often and ruins it as a habitat for wildlife. The annual Summer 'Procession of Witness' generates complaints that the brass band ruined the slumbers of parishioners having a Sunday lie-in. Then come Harvest, there will be the letters complaining that they did not receive a Harvest gift, which was particularly unforgivable, as their grandmother had once sung in the choir. Thus, the annual round is accompanied by reams of notepaper.

The only letter of complaint I have really treasured came from the bishop, rebuking me for never having attended any meeting when he was present. I have had it framed and hung on the study wall.

Your loving uncle, Eustace



### ALL SAINTS ASTON SERVICES IN JULY 2025

### Wednesday 2 July

9:30am Holy Communion

### **Sunday 6 July**

10:30am All Age Worship

### Wednesday 9 July

9:30am Holy Communion

### **Sunday 13 July**

10:30am Holy Communion

### Wednesday 16 July

9:30am Holy Communion

### Sunday 20 June

10:30am Holy Communion

6:00pm CHORAL EVENSONG

### Wednesday 23 July

9:30am Holy Communion

### Sunday 27 July

10:30pm Holy Communion

6:00 pm Concert

### Wednesday 30 July

9:30am Holy Communion





# Holy Trinity Church Ulley Services in July

Sunday 6 July

9:00am Holy Communion

Sunday 13 July

10:30am Morning Worship

Sunday 20 July

10:30am Morning Worship

Sunday 27 July

10:30am Morning Worship

#### WHO TO CONTACT AT HOLY TRINITY

#### **Church Wardens:**

Charlotte Darling: 07957 627402 charlottedarling@live.co.uk Sue Hubbard: 07793 046238 suehermec@hotmail.com

**Weddings:** If you want to talk about getting married, or to book your wedding please contact Sue Hubbard 07793 046238 suehermec@hotmail.com

**Baptisms:** If you would like to arrange a Baptism please E-mail our Baptism

co-ordinator, Gloria Hope on Baptism@gloriahope.uk

**Funerals:** To arrange a Funeral please contact Sue Hubbard 0114 287 3846,

suehermec@hotmail.com



### THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ALL SAINTS CHURCH



We could not fulfil our God-given vision without your generous offering of your time, talents and finance. We encourage everyone to give but especially regular members of the church in order to contribute to the vision of the church and the activities associated with it.

You can give in many different ways...

- 1. On Sundays. When the offering plate or basket is passed around the congregation. Please also consider using the envelopes in church so that we can benefit from Gift Aid, where we can **claim an extra 25p of every £1** of your donation from the Government!
- 2. Any Day the Church is open. At the back of church, we have a contactless giving machine that can take a donation from your Debit or Credit card. Contactless giving enables people to give in a way that they feel comfortable to, using their card to make a transaction in the same way they would in everyday life. It is ideal for casual visitors who do not have regular giving set up but would like to give. Please also consider using the envelopes in church so that we can benefit from Gift Aid, where we can claim an extra 25p of every £1 of your donation from the Government!
- 3. Regular Giving (Gift Aid Scheme) Please contact our Gift Aid Secretary, who will help to who will help to arrange a regular bank standing order or gift envelope where we can **claim an extra 25p of every £1** of your donation from the Government.

Gift Aid Secretary - Carl Spencer
Tel: **07450 648964** or E-Mail: **office@allsaintsaston.org**and mention Regular Giving (Gift Aid Scheme)



### THE NEWS WHERE I AM

Today, my travelcard expired.
Got soaked through twice, Oh, and got fired,
A dog bit me. I lost my phone,
But
you'll be there when I get home.

A pigeon crapped upon my head.
I ate a slice of mouldy bread.
I lost a tooth. I broke three bones,
Who cares?
You'll be there when I get home.

My lottery numbers came up today
(a shame that I forgot to play).
I think I've got a kidney stone.
Like, whatever.
You'll be there when I get home.

The icecaps melt some more each year:
A new world war will soon be here.
The most perfect day that I have known!
Because
- did I mention this? you'll be there when I get home.

Brian Bilston (b14 June 1970)

"Brian Bilston, the British poet, often covers his face in publicity photos to maintain an air of mystery and retain some privacy. This has earned him the nickname "The Banksy of Poetry". He has also stated that he initially felt shy and that hiding behind his writing was a way to build confidence."



The doctor and the ill person





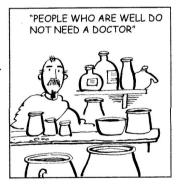
On one occasion jesus called matthew - a tax collector to be his follower.







THIS SET PEOPLE'S TONGUES WAGGING. THEY THOUGHT JESUS WAS LETTING THE SIDE DOWN!











### PRAYER OF ST FANCIS

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

St Francis of Assisi (c1181—1226)



### ALL SAINTS CHURCH ASTON ROTA FOR SIDESPEOPLE

### **JULY 2025**

6	ALL AGE WORSHIP	Bill Mawson & Pauline Martin
13	HOLY COMMUNION	Paul Moakes & Marjorie O'Neil
20	HOLY COMMUNION	Gill Ward & Ann Mason
27	HOLY COMMUNION	Sheila Brown & Pam Taylor



### WEDDINGS AT ASTON ALL SAINTS CHURCH



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Did you know that you can now be married in our church even if you don't live in this parish?

If you would like to come and have a look around please get in touch with our wedding team by:

E-mail weddings.astonallsaints@gmail.com or Phone 07934 101538

We would love to be 'The perfect place for your perfect day'.



### 15th July: St Swithun (or Swithin) - Saint for a Rainy Day

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door, where his grave could easily be reached by both members of the parish and the rainfall from the heavens

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

According to legend, forty days of terrible weather followed the 15 July 971 when his bones were moved suggesting St Swithun was none too happy with the new arrangements! Ever since, it has been said that the weather on 15 July supposedly determines the weather for the next forty days, as noted in the popular Elizabethan verse:

St Swithin's day if thou dost rain For forty days it will remain St Swithin's day if thou be fair For forty days will rain na mair



### 22nd July: What do we really know about Mary Magdalene?

Fake news is not new. Perhaps one old example is the assertion that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute. Back in the 6th Century, Pope Gregory is said to have confused her with two other women in the Bible. Medieval Bible scholars also attempted to name an unidentified sinful woman who had washed and anointed the feet of Jesus. As Mary Magdalene is mentioned in the next chapter, they regarded her as the same person! After this, many classical artists painted Mary in various states of undress, perpetuating a falsehood.

So what do we really know about Mary? The Gospels tell us that she came from Magdala, a town in Galilee, and Jesus healed her by casting out seven evil spirits. After this she followed Jesus, with other women, on His ministry providing



resources. Later, Mary watched Jesus die on the cross, and having cared for His needs while He was alive, wanted to care for Him after His death.

It was when Mary went to anoint the body of Jesus at the tomb that the risen Jesus appeared to her. He told Mary to go to His disciples and tell them about His return to Heaven. She was obedient and became the first emissary of the resurrection. In those days, the witness of a woman was worthless. Despite ridicule, Mary had the courage to speak about Jesus in a place of great disbelief. We have to ask ourselves do we have the same courage as Mary? How prepared are we to stand our ground to share Jesus with others in the face of those who mock and scoff at us?

Although we usually associate Mary with the Easter story, this month on 22nd July, the Church celebrates her Feast Day. In this snapshot of Mary's life we know she had experienced great distress and suffering. After Jesus healed her, Mary expressed her gratitude by being utterly committed and devoted to Him.

Jesus can give everyone a new start; a new purpose and direction in life. Like Mary we can thank Him for blessing us, loving us and forgiving us and moving into practical forms of service. Only Jesus can transform our lives so that we can glorify God in all that we do.



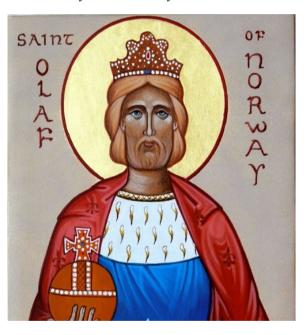
### 29th July: Olaf, King and Patron Saint of Norway

If you led a wild life before your conversion, then Olaf is the saint for you. Indeed, anything you have done could hardly match him, for he was a brigand and pirate who roamed the Baltic and Normandy around 1015 AD, maiming and killing, stealing and destroying, feared by all.

Then on one particular raid off Normandy, Olaf met his match: he boarded a ship with Christians on it and was converted to Christianity. The shock of this sent him inland, off the ships, to England, where he joined forces with Ethelred II for a time. But soon his entrepreneurial spirit was asserting itself, and an ambition was born: to return to Norway and convert the country to Christianity.

Olaf was never a man to do things meekly: he sailed for Norway and, helped by his own military ability and the flight of his rivals, seized power and became King. Once king, Olaf gave his subjects peace and security. He remade old laws, and insisted on their just execution, ignoring all bribes or threats.

Above all, Olaf began to convert the country. He was helped by a number of Viking converts and English monks who were missionaries to Norway. But the old paganism was strong in many places, and soon there was a rebellion. Olaf was exiled in 1029 and died the following year in a battle to regain his throne.



He was buried, but his story did not end there. For Christianity had established a foothold that would grow and grow. And it was soon reported that springs of healing water flowed from Olaf's grave, and miracles happened. So Grimkell, the English bishop of Trondheim, built a chapel on the site of his grave and declared him a saint. Olaf's cult grew in popularity until by 1070 his feast day was celebrated throughout Scandinavia. He was popular in England too, with about 40 ancient churches dedicated to him, possibly due to benefactors of Viking origin.



### I'LL STILL BE LOVING YOU

When your hair has turned to winter and your teeth are in a plate, when your getter up and go has gone to stop and wait - I'll still be loving you.

When your attributes have shifted beyond the bounds of grace, I'll count your many blessings, not the wrinkles in your face - I'll still be loving you.

When the crackle in your voice matches that within your knee and the times are getting frequent that you don't remember me - I'll still be loving you.

Growing old is not a sin, it's something we all do.
I hope you'll always understand I'll still be loving you.

By C David Hay (b 1936)

C David Hay is a retired dentist living in Indiana and Florida. He is the author of five books of poetry which are dedicated to his wife, Joy.





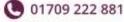
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CHORAL EVENSONG SUNDAY 20 JULY 2025 @ 6:00pm

END OF TERM CONCERT SUNDAY 27 JULY 2025 @ 6:00pm

"ALL SAINTS - ALL WELCOME"







#### MEMORIES OF ASTON PARISH BY JONATHAN LAYNE

In August 2000 a former inhabitant of Aston/Swallownest from 1936-1955 sent me the following reminiscences and memories of the villages during the first half of the 20th century.



Looking up Chesterfield Road towards Swallownest Crossroads.

I was born at Fairhavens, Chesterfield Road, Swallownest on 21 June 1936; the house had been built for my parents in 1925 by a local builder, Bill Memmory, and was one of the first to be built there. By the time I was born, the houses on the right hand side going towards Beighton were very much as they are now but the other side was fields, mostly farmed by Mr Walker whose farmhouse stood at the cross-roads. At the bottom of the fields was a small sewage works, tastefully screened by poplar trees.

My mother, a trained primary school teacher, had been married twice, her first husband dying in the 'flu epidemic of 1919. My half sister, Betty Hanson, was seventeen when I arrived and my brother, Peter, ten. My father was the manager of the Co-operative grocery store at Treeton, having worked for Rotherham Co-op since leaving school at fourteen - apart from three years in the army during World War One.

On 3 September 1939, the Second World War began but our household had already been affected. My father had enrolled in the Civil Defence and was Senior Warden for our district - a real-life Hodges for followers of Dads' Army - and my sister, recently qualified as a teacher, had been evacuated with her pupils from a school in Sheffield to Rothley, near Loughborough.



Little happened during the phoney war period but, as invasion seemed more probable, my father was asked to take on an additional role - that of invasion chairman for the parish. It was expected that an invasion would throw national, county and district administration into chaos and so the parish invasion chairman was to have over-riding powers to co-ordinate the work of the police, fire brigade, Home Guard etc. at the local level - basically, his word would have been law.

One of his immediate tasks was to tour the area and mark all alternative water supplies - wells, springs etc - on to large scale maps; he also had books of secret orders which were kept under lock and key and which we never saw. He also had to arrange for a headquarters in the event of emergency and so he visited the builder, Bill Memmory, and read him the order that, in the event of invasion, he would be commandeering his office (one of the few local houses with a telephone).

As I got older, I suppose that wartime became an exciting adventure - you were not aware as a child of much of the realities. There were the many people in uniform, the convoys of military vehicles (often held up in Chesterfield Road when the level crossing gates at Beighton were closed), the underground air raid shelters at Swallownest School where we were sometimes taken for practice evacuations (wearing our gas masks). Although the parish didn't really suffer directly from bombing to any great extent, there were the two massive raids on Sheffield and also we had frequent alerts because we were under the flight paths to such places as Manchester and Liverpool.

Initially, I remember being got out of bed and taken to a communal shelter in the semi-basement of the shops on Park Hill but soon my father constructed an underground shelter in our garden. This was so strong that, after the war, he refused to try to demolish it and it was still there when my mother moved in 1964. I had a small bunk across one end of it and being moved out of bed and taken up the garden into the shelter became a matter of routine.

As the war progressed, the warning system became more selective. In some cases, general sirens were replaced by initial warnings from the Chief Warden to Senior Wardens - these were delivered in person and were 'colour-coded' to indicate the likelihood of developing into an attack on that area. Yellow indicated a preliminary caution, while red meant an air raid was imminent, triggering air raid sirens and other warning measures. Green signalled that the raiders had passed and purple was used for blackouts when enemy aircraft were expected to fly over, but not attack, a specific area.

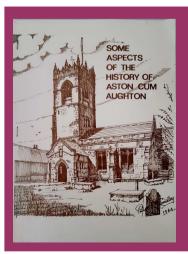
As enemy intentions became clearer as a result of reports from Royal Observer Corps posts throughout the country, the warning could be cancelled (again by the Chief Warden) or the sirens sounded to alert the public.



On one occasion, a report came to my father during a raid that a magnetic mine had been seen floating in a small reservoir down towards the railway - this held water for the colliery. Although this seemed unlikely, he and a couple more wardens set off to investigate, having divested themselves of anything of a magnetic nature which could set the thing off. As they got nearer, my father realised that he was on his own - the other two having decided that the better part of valour was discretion; the magnetic mine turned out to be an abandoned oil drum!

There was, however, a real event. We were down in the shelter and my brother, by then about fifteen, was outside watching events. He was officially a messenger boy for the wardens (he had his own steel helmet) but he was a keen member of the ATC and aircraft enthusiast. Suddenly, my mother heard rapid footsteps up the path and down the shelter steps and in came Peter, out of breath and white as a sheet. He announced that a bomb was about to drop in the fields opposite and so the bang was awaited with baited breath. Nothing happened! My mother thought that he was indulging in a leg pull and threatened what she would do if he tried it again but he insisted that it was true. They went above ground and the fields opposite were lit up like daylight. Some type of parachute flare had been jettisoned by a German aircraft and it had floated down, releasing a large number of separate flares.

Ann Key Secretary Aston-cum-Aughton History Group



### **Aston-cum-Aughton History Group**

We meet in the Reading Room on 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month

7:00pm to 9:00pm.

Contact Brian Mears 0114 287 7751 Gloria Hope 07788 123044 Ann Key 0114 287 2610



### ALL SAINTS CHURCH ASTON

### CHANGE OF CHURCH WEBSITE & E-MAIL ADDRESS

If you tried to look at the church website in the second half of December - or if you tried to contact us by email at the usual office address, then you will have realized that we had major problems with communication. If you got a 'site unavailable' message, or if your email bounced back, then we apologise.

All is working properly now and we have a new address:

Church Website: www.allsaintsaston.org

Office E-Mail: office@allsaintsaston.org

Our Parish Office is still: 07934 101538



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### From the Registers

Baptisms:

Benjamin Austin Tordoff

Funerals:

NO FUNERALS IN JUNE



### WHO TO CONTACT AT ALL SAINTS

If you want to talk about getting married, or book your wedding please telephone **07934 101538**E-Mail: weddings.astonallsaints@gmail.com

If you would like to arrange a Baptism please E-mail our Baptism co-ordinator Gloria Hope on **Baptism@gloriahope.uk** 

If you would like to arrange a Funeral please speak to our Funeral Co-ordinator Gloria Hope **07553 504806** 

Having a meeting or party? Why not hire our Narthex.

£15 per hour. No Booking Fee.

Contact E-Mail: office@allsaintsaston.org



#### **REGULAR SERVICES**

#### PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS ASTON CUM AUGHTON

SUNDAYS:	All Age Worship (1st Sunday of the month)	10:30am
	Parish Communion (2nd Sunday and 4th Sunday)	10:30am
	Morning Worship (3rd Sunday)	10:30am
	When there is a 5th Sunday To Be Arranged	10:30am
	Evensong ( 2nd Sunday)	6.00pm
	Compline ( 4th Sunday)	6:00pm

WEDNESDAYS: Holy Communion 9.30am

#### **TEAM STAFF ALL SAINTS ASTON CUM AUGHTON**

CHILDREN'S MINISTER & WORSHIP LEADER: <b>Beth Henshaw</b> 07813 789255			
WARDENS:	Chris Ward (All Saints Val Dixon (All Saints	,	07949 186202 0114 287 3214
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Louise Cooper 07581 421976			
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Elliott Walker 07954 685831			
MAGAZINE	Peter Maxted	peter@themax2020.co.uk	07950 412753
GIVING SECRETA	RY <b>Carl Spencer</b>	office@allsaintsaston.org	07450 648964
WEDDINGS	Gill Ward	weddings.astonallsaints@g	ımail.com

#### PARISH CHURCH OF HOLY TRINITY ULLEY

SUNDAYS:	Holy Communion (1st Sunday)	9:00am
	Morning Worship (2nd Sunday & 4th Sunday)	10.30am
	Holy Communion (3rd Sunday)	10.30am

#### **TEAM STAFF HOLY TRINITY ULLEY**

ASSOCIATE PRIEST : <b>Rev Vicky Camber</b> <i>Vick</i>	/_camber@yahoo.co.uk	01909 771101

FOCAL MINISTRY TEAM HOLY TRINITY:

Peter Hutchinson	0114 442 5340
Margaret Oakley	07803 118944
Gloria Hope	07788 123044

WARDENS: Sue Hubbard (Holy Trinity) 0114 287 3846
Charlotte Darling (Holy Trinity) 07957 627402



### **Groups and Societies**

### **Aston & District Footpath Walkers Association**

Local friendly walking every Thursday. Contact **Mel Partridge on 07731 773832,** or E-Mail melpartridge1943@gmail.com.

### **Aston Ladies Circle**

Meetings are at 7.15pm on Tuesday evenings in the Parish Hall or 'OUT' on trips. **Contact Audrey Jones 0114 287 5518** 

### **Aston-cum-Aughton History Group**

Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, 7 - 9pm, William Layne Reading Room, Aughton Lane, Aston. Visitors welcome.

### **Aston-cum-Aughton Ladies Group**

Meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month at 1.45pm in the Narthex at All Saints Church.

Contact: Linda on 0114 287 6696

### **Dinnington & District Horticultural Society**

Evening talks in Anston Parish Hall, Ryton Road, North Anston S25 4DL at 7.30pm. Non members £2.50.

For more details contact: 01909 567326.

### **Chatterbox Activity Group**

for pensioners, carers and over 55's.

Tuesdays 10am to 12:30

at Central Methodist Church Hall, Lodge Lane, Aston.

Members £3.00.

Board Games, Outings and other Events.

### **Friends of Ulley Country Park**

Sunday Café: 11 am to 3 pm. Homemade refreshments including soup, crusty bread, coffee, tea, fruit cordials, cakes and scones. We hope to host a special event at each Café day. Details on the website.



### 5th Age (charity number 1068378)

This social group meets every Tuesday, 2 - 4pm at Heighton View Community Centre (off Turnshaw Avenue in Aughton).

Open to anyone over 55. Just drop in: ask for Julia. Membership free.

Contact: enquire5thage@outlook.com

### **Prospects**

An inclusive service with those with learning difficulties. All welcome! We learn stories from the Bible, (sometimes acted out); sing songs together in worship and celebration and end with cake.

Swallownest Baptist Church 3rd Sunday of each month at 3pm.

Contacts: Malcolm 07720 776081 or Elizabeth 07594 410801



### **Little Angels - CURRENTLY CLOSED**

Playgroup for babies and pre-school children at The Narthex, All Saints Church, Aston Every Monday 9.30 - 11.30am in Term-time Admission FREE, but donations welcome

Contact for updates: Gloria Hope 07553 504806 or gloria@gloriahope.uk



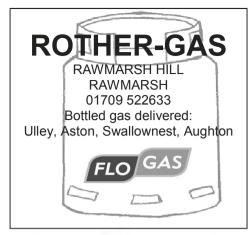
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