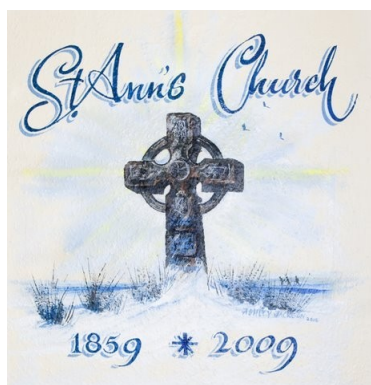


Anniversary Commemorative Booklet

**St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church, Deepcar
150 years of a vibrant parish**



Logo Painted by Ashley Jackson

Ahead of the 150th anniversary on August 15th 2009 of the laying of the foundation stone of St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church, Deepcar, Sheffield, a history booklet has been written, celebrating the life of those who were involved in the parish from those early days to the present time.

The book brings together the full story of how in 1853, 20 Irishmen, who worked in the terracotta mines, which were then present in the Deepcar area, walked the 9 miles into the Croft Area of Sheffield where St. Vincent's Mission Chapel had just been opened. From that point onwards, the Deepcar Irish community working with Father Burke, a Vincentian priest at St. Vincent's, bought the land off Haywood Lane Deepcar and within seven years the church was built.

The book has also paints a picture of Roman Catholic life in the Deepcar, Stocksbridge and Penistone areas, from the 14th century onwards. As elsewhere, from the end of the 16th century, to practise the Roman Catholic faith was ultimately punishable by death, and so the faith became practised only by a few in a small number of secret chapels within local manor houses. The book has shown how this was done in Midhopstones, Spinkhall Stocksbridge and at Barnby Hall Cawthorne.

The economic drive of the Industrial Revolution led to immigration from Ireland and together with the relaxation in the law about practising the Roman Catholic faith in 1829, there was an increase in the number of what would become catholic churches.

Over the first 60 years of the parish, examples are given of how parish life integrated into the general life of the Stocksbridge valley, helping out many who were affected by the economic depression of the 1920s and 1930s.

There is a section of memories of some of the older members of the parish who can go back as far as the 1930s. There are descriptions of travelling to church on a pony and trap, walking over from Penistone to Deepcar for Mass, and then back again, as well as what was done for Roman Catholic children prior to there being any Roman Catholic schools.

Recollections about the contributions made by the late Father John Callanan are described. He was Parish Priest from 1963 to 2002, and in his time he had built St. Mary's Church at Penistone in 1965, St. Ann's Primary School in Stocksbridge in 1973 and invited the Presentation Sisters to open a Convent at Deepcar and teach in the school, as well as carry out wider pastoral duties in the widespread and scattered community.

The story is brought up to date with a description of how the parish is currently set up, fit for the 21st century. Many duties are now carried out by parishioners, and there is more democratic and informative structure in place regarding parish duties and actions.

The Bishop of Hallam, the Reverend John Rawsthorne has written about "...two vibrant communities (in Deepcar/Stocksbridge and Penistone) each worshipping in their own Church but collaborating and co-operating in so many different ways".

Current Parish Priest Gerard Harney has written of how he "...feels privileged to be Parish Priest in this special year"

The booklet costs £3.00 and there will be CD/DVD available from mid-August, costing £2.00, and showing photographs over the years of various parish activities.

The booklet is now available at St. Ann's Church Deepcar, St. Marys Church Penistone, Stocksbridge Library and also Robinson's News in Penistone.

You can also obtain a copy of the booklet or the cd of photos (when available) by contacting :-

Ann Whitfield on 0114 2884218 or John Wright on 01226 764642

The booklet is also available by mail order (cost £3.75 incl Postage), [Click here](#) to request details of how to order.



St. Ann's Church, Deepcar with original entrance