

## No. 30: 'Holy Trinity: a walking, witnessing church'

Holy Trinity, is named after the Christian doctrine of the Trinity which is the belief that God is one God, but three 'coeternal consubstantial persons', - the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit - as "one God in three Divine Persons". The three Persons are distinct, yet are one "substance, essence or nature". In this context, a "nature" is what one is, whereas a "person" is who one is.

The developed doctrine of the Trinity is not explicit in the New Testament, but the New Testament possesses a "triadic" understanding of God and contains a number of Trinitarian formulas. The doctrine of the Trinity was first formulated among the early Christians and fathers of the Church as early Christians attempted to understand the relationship between Jesus and God in their scriptural documents and prior traditions. I remember trying to teach this (probably unsuccessfully!) to a Sunday-school group of 6 year olds many years ago; in truth the Trinity is a deep mystery and difficult to comprehend!

The church year celebrates the Trinity on the Sunday after Pentecost (Trinity Sunday), which is 8 weeks after Easter. Pentecost is the festival when the church celebrates the Holy Spirit blessing and empowering the disciples after Jesus's Ascension to heaven. This kick-started the early church into its witness to the world and this has been taken as the 'birthday' of the Christian church.

The day of Pentecost has also traditionally been known as 'Whit Sunday' and there are a number of suggested reasons for this name. One is that 'Whitsun' is a shortened version of 'White Sunday' when those due to be baptised on that day wore white and also white vestments were worn to celebrate the festival in churches. Another suggestion is that Pentecost is also called 'wit' because of the outpouring of wisdom that came down upon the disciples on that day. Whit Monday was a bank holiday in England until 1971 when it was replaced by the fixed date of Spring Bank Holiday.

Holy Trinity Church  
HUDDERSFIELD

All events  
are free!

You are invited to...

SHINE

*a week of free events to light up your life*

Whitsun was a time in the north of England when churches and their Sunday schools held 'Whit Walks', often on Whit Monday. Marching brass bands and Morris dancing became important parts of the celebrations in some districts.

This year Holy Trinity is marking its 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the week between Pentecost and Trinity Sunday with a week of events called 'Shine'. The aim is to demonstrate our commitment to 'Love God and Love Huddersfield' and witness to His desire to light up our lives.

Holy Trinity participated in Huddersfield's Whit Walks throughout its first century. These were organised by the Anglican churches of the town and each church, and especially its Sunday school, marched to the Parish Church (St Peter's) in town.

## THE HUDDERSFIELD CHRONICLE, SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1852.

be fol- putting ing date call in	<b>THE WHITSUNTIDE HOLIDAYS.</b> The festivities pertaining to this season of the year, and which in this as in many other parts of the country	High-street, the Sabbath school children belonging to this place of worship met in the Independent Chapel, Highfield, where they were joined by the Paddock school, and addressed by the Rev. P. T. Gilton. After	<b>HUDDER</b> <i>(Before Ge</i>
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'The festivities pertaining to this season of the year, and which in this as in many other parts of the country form the great annual sources of attraction to large classes of the population, and furnish an opportunity for the celebration of many interesting anniversaries, have not faded to be observed in this district during the past week with their usual honours. The weather during Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, though sufficiently favourable to allow of out-door processions and amusements, was exceedingly cold, whilst the showers of rain which fell at intervals, we doubt not, deterred many from appearing in the last "new style," [I think this refers to the custom of wearing new clothes...] and somewhat diminished the pleasure which out-door recreations, on a fine day, never fail to afford. Notwithstanding, however, these drawbacks upon the gaieties and hilarities of the time, there were thousands who ignored such obstacles, and played their parts most valorously on the occasion.

On Monday the closing of the places of business was general, and, whilst many remained to take part in the school and other anniversaries to which that day appears almost devoted, large numbers took advantage of the cheap excursion trains, and sought other sources of attraction. The celebration of Sabbath-school anniversaries, which for some years past have taken place at this season, has become an event which the children and patrons of these institutions anticipate with considerable interest, and, combined as they are with processions and public religious services, together with the agreeable appendage of a good tea, happy faces, and a social party, they necessarily become a great source of attraction and interest to the religious public.

In pursuance of previous arrangement the scholars in connection with the Parish, St. Paul's, and Trinity Churches, together with those belonging to the neighbouring church schools, at Paddock, Lindley, Longwood, Woodhouse, and Hillhouse, were assembled at their respective schools between twelve and one o'clock, after which they proceeded in procession, accompanied by their teachers and friends, to the Parish Church.

The following return will show the numbers present: — Schools. Boys. Girls.

Parish Church (National) 180, 110

Northgate (Sunday) 112, 134 (Infant) 27, 27

St. Paul's Church (National) 125, 110

Trinity Church (National and Sunday) 140, 160

Paddock (Sunday) and Longroyd-bridge (National) 134, 120

Lindley (Sunday) 60, 60

Longwood (Day) 58, 45

Woodhouse (National) 133, 132

Hillhouse (Sunday) 14, 32

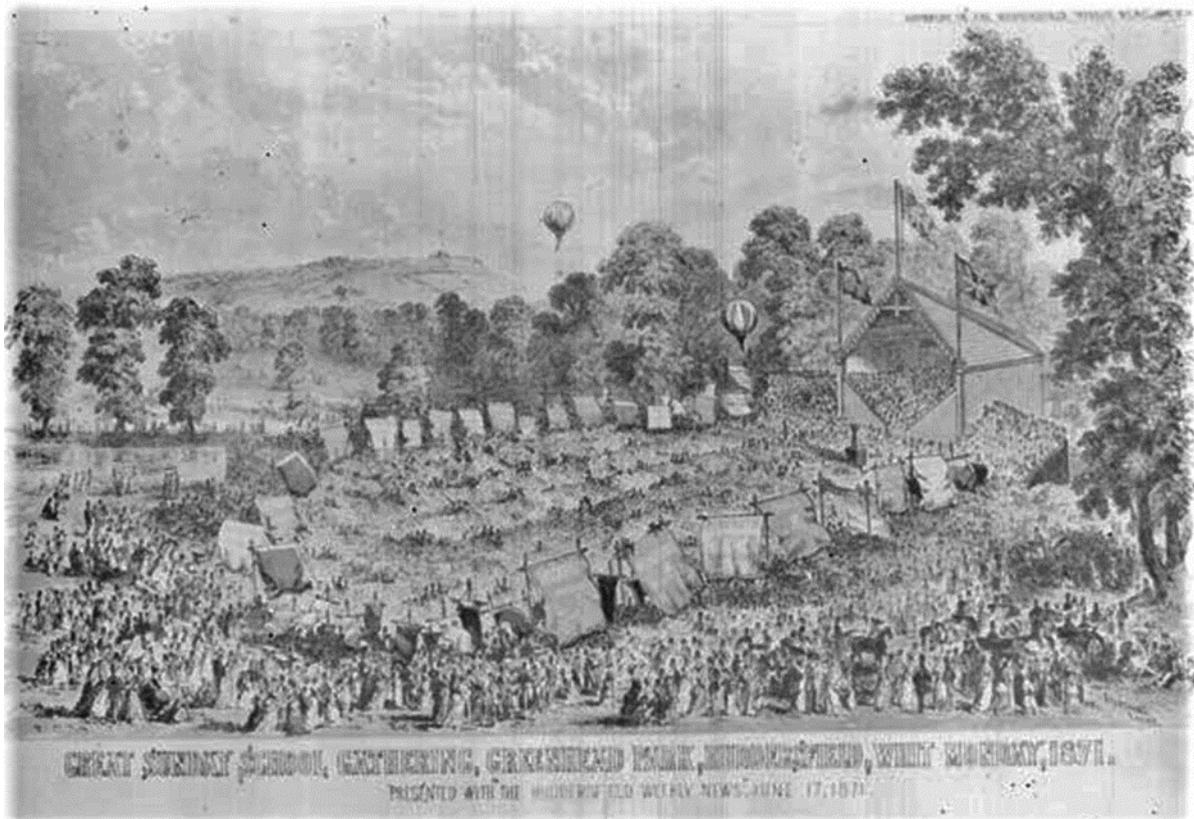
Total number present 1913

During the service they sang several hymns, and the effect of so numerous a choir of juvenile voices was most gratifying. The sermon was preached by the Rev. C. A. Hulbert, M.A., incumbent of Slaithwaite, and was an eloquent and effective discourse, peculiarly appropriate for the occasion, and admirably adapted for the audience which the rev. gentleman had the honour.

After this, the respective schools were re-formed in procession, and returned to their several places of appointment, where they were amply regaled with currant buns and tea. The children belonging to Trinity Church schools proceeded up New North-road, and were drawn up in front of the Infirmary, where they sang a new version of the National Anthem, after which they adjourned to the schools in Dyke-end-lane, and were supplied with tea and buns.

The annual sermons on behalf of the Trinity Church Schools were preached in that church by the Rev. N. Maning, incumbent, on Sunday, morning and evening, and by the Rev. J. Battersby in the afternoon, after which collections were made, amounting to £21 15s.

The annual tea meeting was held on the following (Monday) evening, in the Boys' School-room, Dyke-end-lane, when about 200 teachers and friends sat down to an excellent tea. The church choir, assisted by Miss Whitham, was in attendance, and added most agreeably to the pleasures of the evening by their performances. The proceedings were presided over by the Rev. N. Maning, and the meeting was addressed by the Rev. J. Battersby, Mr. Smith, scripture reader; and also by Messrs. Jos. Oddy and G. Harper.'



This image reproduced from the Huddersfield Weekly News, published June 17th 1871 shows a massed gathering of Sunday schools on the annual Whit walk in Greenhead Park.

One of the pleasures to become a real favourite at Whit was cricket and Huddersfield's cricket ground was situated near to Holy Trinity in what later became part of the 'Rifle Fields' and eventually Greenhead Park. The following article alluded to what a possible future might become...

*'CRICKET MATCH between the Huddersfield Cricket Club and the Manchester Trafford Club on the Cricket Ground, Trinity-street, on Wednesday, 11th May. Wickets to be pitched 10.30 a.m. Admission 3d.; Ladies free.'*

By 1864 Trinity's schools had grown to such an extent that they no longer joined with the other churches but had their own services at Holy Trinity. Around 400 were reported to have taken part in the events that year. The 'Rifle-field' became the location for Trinity's Sunday schools to celebrate at Whitsun, with games following the march with the banners which continued to stop outside the Infirmary and Mrs Allen's house, West Place, Trinity Street, (now the funeral home), where the children were given gingerbread.

The practice of Whit walks had begun to wane by the early 1900s. The Examiner commented in an article in 1901 that the old practice of drinking 'Whitsun Ale' had been superseded by the promotion of the local 'Bands of Hope'. Children were invited to sign a pledge of abstinence from alcohol and educated on the 'evils of liquor'. Holy Trinity had a thriving branch of the Band of Hope at this time.

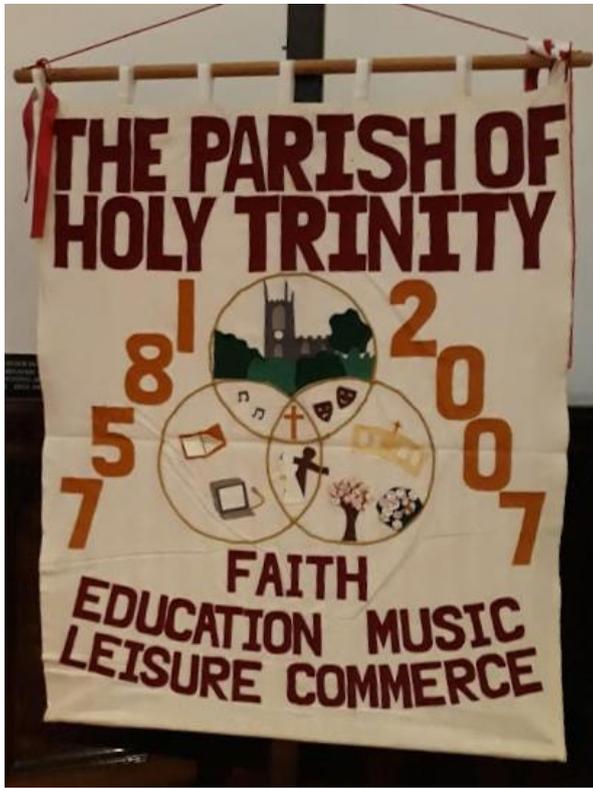
*"A glorious day for the band of hope Annual festival, which took well over half an hour to pass a given point, whilst in the matter of decorations in the procession, all previous efforts were excelled. On the Monday the scholars of Trinity Church School imitated the old custom of "passing under the yoke", when, as they came out of Park Drive towards the churchyard gates, they passed, in long procession, between the poles bearing their line banner. The banner bore the text from which too few clergymen and ministers have dared to preach. "Righteousness exalteth!" and the banner itself typified the yoke of One whose yoke is easy and whose burden is light.*

*It is curious to note, in connection with the association of Whit Monday with the festival of the Sunday schools and of Whit Tuesday with that of the bands of hope, how customs have changed in respect of the observance of Whitsuntide. Anyone who should now suggest that the children should be served with liquor at a Sunday school feast to-day would properly be scouted as a corrupter of youth. But fifty years ago a barrel of ale would have been broached in the school and the youngest allowed to sip from the cup that inebriates and does not always—or, in the long run, often—cheer."*

With the growth of housing in Marsh and the opening of the school and Sunday school there, festivities at Whitsun moved to a field off Colwyn Street. Races, cricket and 'scrambles' were recorded as being particular favourites amongst the children.

Historically some parishes 'beat the bounds', where clergy and wardens would walk the parish boundary, often on Ascension Day. In the days before properly drawn maps, often the tradition was to take young boys on the walk, to teach them the route so it could be passed down to future generations.

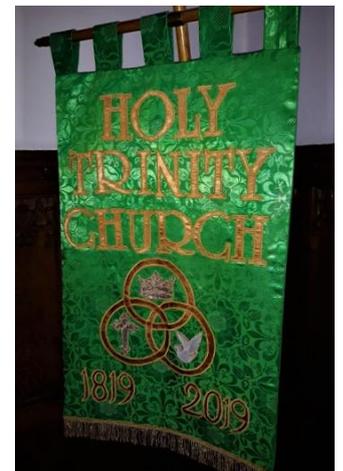
This event was recreated by Holy Trinity in 2007 when, to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of it being granted a parish, a walk of witness was arranged around the parish boundary.



The walk left Holy Trinity after the morning service on Trinity Sunday, led by the Processional Cross, itself donated in 1957 to celebrate the centenary of the parish. Songs and hymns were sung at various points along the route and prayers offered. Leaflets were handed out and a new banner paraded (pictured left). On our return to church a birthday tea-party was held and 150 celebratory birthday candles with the church name on were lit.

A picnic was held in Greenhead Park part way around the walk and it was arranged for a ceremony to take place at the picnic where Rev Calvert Prentis was formally installed as Vicar of the parish. (He had served the first two years of his ministry as 'Priest-in-charge'). Whether or not an installation service had been held in a local park before or since is not known!

This year it is fitting that our two-hundredth celebrations feature a week of activities to invite people into the church to witness to the light of the gospel. This witness has been shared and celebrated in many ways down the years, but the good news of the gospel remains unchanging. We're fortunate to have had another new banner donated to mark the occasion. Christine Wardle of our 'Walking for Health' group has made it, together with some beautiful embroidered communion burses and linen. They're also in memory of Christine's Great, Great, Great Grandfather, Joseph Kaye who was the builder of Holy Trinity (and many other fine buildings in Huddersfield).



Our 'Shine' week events feature something for everyone – check out the publicity online:

<http://www.holytrinityhuddersfield.com/shine/> We're even holding a beer festival (but unlike in the Victorian times we won't be giving the beer to the children!) Cheers!

**Andy Barber**  
May '19

References:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whitsun>  
Huddersfield Chronicle: June 5<sup>th</sup> 1852  
Huddersfield Weekly News: June 17<sup>th</sup> 1871  
Huddersfield Daily Examiner: May 29<sup>th</sup> 1901  
Holy Trinity Parish Magazine, April 1918