

2022

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MENSTON
PARISH CHURCH
St John the Divine



*'... I have conjured a lily to light these
hours, a token of thanks ... Lily of the
Valley... a favourite flower...each
inflorescence a silent bell disguising
a singular voice...'*

*Extracts from the Poet Laureate's, Simon Armitage,
tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II*

60p



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Andrew Lindsay BSc(Hons)

Phone 01943 872716

Email info@thefootpeople.co.uk

Website www.thefootpeople.co.uk

Calling all Crafters!

*First Sunday of the month in the
Parish Room 10.15 - 11am*

We need your help!!

Can you knit, paint, stitch, bake or
create something we can sell on the stall?

The more the merrier!

Please help if you can - fancy goods,
home made gifts - even Christmas crafts.

Please give your items to
Angela St-John, Sue Lee or Andrew.

Proceeds to church funds.

This month

P6 A View from the Pews

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P8 Menston MU news

P11 A Safe Sacred Place

P17 Archbishops' Quiz

p18 Bible Bite

P23 Floodlighting

Copy for the NOVEMBER magazine is due by
Sunday 16 October Please email copy to both editor and
Parish Office (office@stjohnmenston.org.uk) or leave
copy for typing with the office.

Albany Row

Dear Friends

As I sit down to write this letter, a number of significant events are taking place. So forgive me for writing a letter to you that is time specific. Perhaps by the time that you read this some things will be in place, and the country will start to feel very different.

This week Steve and I have been away at the 2nd Diocesan Clergy Conference, hosted for us at Liverpool Hope University. It is six years since we were last together as a whole diocese and many things have changed. More about the conference in a moment, but a colleague of mine who was ordained at the same time as me, reminded me that when ever our cohort 'go away together' into retreat, it seems that significant historical moments occur. I remember clearly coming down to breakfast for example on the morning of 24 June 2016 to the news that the UK had voted for Brexit. This time we missed the dissolving of Boris Johnson's premiership at Balmoral, the visit of Liz Truss also to Balmoral to meet her Majesty the Queen and form the next government, and then as we drove home on the M62 discovering that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was gravely ill. We were home by the time the sad news was announced. There will be many, many tributes worldwide paid to our late Majesty, a life of service, well lived.

As the sovereign head of the Church of England the Queen was never shy in speaking about her faith and the hope and the strength that she found in Jesus. We know that in Jesus she had an assurance that through the death and resurrection of Jesus we have a promise of eternal life offered to all, and she drew great comfort from this following the death of her husband HRH Prince Philip.

I don't know about you, but it feels right now that we are on the brink of many changes and it can feel very uncertain. Many of us will struggle to imagine the life of our nation without the Queen. Her faithfulness and her consistency has been an assuring presence in a world that feels to be ever changing around us.

Back in Liverpool our theme for the Conference was 'Hope'. We listened with interest to Historian Tom Holland, we were encouraged by the Archbishop of York, and we were inspired by bible studies led by the Revd John Bell from the Iona Community. All of them in different ways helped us to think about Hope, how we have got to where we are and how we might have confidence and hope in the future. John Bell used scripture to show us how God has and does continue to work through change, our faith is alive and moves to serve the present age and equip us for the future, rather than being stuck in a museum from the past. Tom Holland showed us how history has moved to create where we are now and how our Christian faith is like DNA running through the centuries.

Here at St Johns, Menston, we have been working planning and praying about how we serve our Lord in this place. Through hard work and generosity we have replaced our 150 year old leaky roof, with a smart hopefully watertight, new roof. This is a sign to our village and wider afield that we are a living, serving, worshipping community, not stuck in the past but ever looking to the future. The new roof is a symbol of confidence and hope.

As a nation we grieve the death of Queen Elizabeth whilst at the same time acknowledging the consistency and continuity. *'The Queen is dead, long live the King'* sounds like harsh words, but actually reminds us that in our grief, hope takes us onwards. In our prayers we will hold the Royal Family up to God, but we also continue to grieve a cost of living crisis that will challenge hope for many families, a world where intolerance, injustice and hatred will continue to be a reality for many, and our faith, belief and loving service, modelled by the Queen, must be our action. St Paul wrote in his second letter to the Corinthians, so we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal,. This is where we find our Hope.

With Love

Andrew

A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

You won't know this but I have had to write this month's article much earlier than usual. The reason for this is that I am, at time of writing, about to fly to Canada to visit friends and spend time with my younger brother and his family.

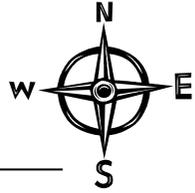
I haven't seen Jules or his wife and children in over four years. There has, of course, been the occasional Skype call but that is poor compensation for actually being in the same room. We all have had a similar experience during the pandemic and I wonder now whether we are more willing to engage socially with friends and family than we were before.

Being in the company of other people – whether to share food, drink, talk, laughter or experiences is one of the rewarding joys of being human. Yet too many are denied this joy. Through different circumstances there are many people who are alone or lonely. As we enter the autumn and nights draw in, we are likely to be spending more time in our homes. The opportunities for seeing other people without the need for spending money in restaurants, bars or theatres become more limited. I wonder, though whether that is a result of a belief that 'entertaining' should be a special occasion. On many Sundays after church, I call in on family for a coffee. It is nothing special, no fancy cups and saucers, no specially made cakes and yet it is everything. Just spending time with people of whom you are fond is often all it takes to satisfy and comfort the soul.

We have seen in the village how many people have come forward to welcome the refugees from Ukraine. We have borne witness to the kindness of others in offering help through our charitable giving votes. On a personal level I have witnessed the kindness and welcome of the bishop as he strives to create a more inclusive and loving church. Every little act of kindness, every 'hello', every cup of coffee or wave as you see someone in the street has an impact. We are social beings. Visiting my brother is important because, though he and his family may live 7,000 miles away I carry them all in my heart. I am sure we do this for many of our friends and family but sometimes it is warming and lovely just to let them know.

So, pop the kettle on, wind the window of your car down, spend a moment to ask how someone is. It really means the world.

Prayer Points



October is the month when we see the seasons change. Summer ends and winter starts to make its way. The clocks go back, darkness feels more apparent, and the awareness of this season changing is marked in our prayers as we think of that wonderful text from Ecclesiastes:

*“To everything there is a season,
and a time for every purpose under Heaven”.*

As the darkness seems to get earlier and earlier, we are prompted to think of that hymn:

*“Abide with me, fast falls the eventide,
the darkness deepens, Lord with me abide”.*

October prompts us to think of both the shadows of the night, and the shadows in our minds. It's a time to face our fears about the future, to remember loved ones, to reflect on our feelings, however hidden or feared, and purposefully seek the way to peace. We have witnessed the end of one era as we said 'goodbye' to our faithful Queen, and we pray for our new Sovereign 'God bless the King'. As we make our prayers it is to our constant and loving God,

“help of the helpless, O abide with me”.

Loving God, you are my beginning and my end,
the alpha and the omega,
For every season I have journeyed, I give you thanks.
For those still to come, I trust in you.
Bless the time I spend now in this turning world,
Until I reach the place where there are no more
seasons, but only your peace.

Amen

With thanks to David Mercer for this month's Prayer Points

This month:

4 October 12 noon Meet at the Wetherby Whaler to be joined by members of our link branch of Upper Cumberworth nr Huddersfield.

If you have not already given your name to Dorothy Slater for this event, please ring her on 879536 to add your name to the list. If you need help with transport, please also mention this to Dorothy.

After the meal, we plan to invite our visitors back to Menston to look round our church (with its completed new roof and points of interest such as our pew mouse carvings!) and refreshments in the Parish Room before their departure.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

At our last meeting in September, we were pleased to welcome Mrs Jane Pratt who came to talk about her visit to Buckingham Palace last May to receive a BEM (British Empire Medal). This had been awarded to her in recognition of her voluntary services in our community over many years, and the awards were being given at one of the summer garden parties.

Queen Elizabeth was unable to attend because of her declining health, but was represented by Prince Charles and Camilla, Princess Anne, Prince & Princess Michael of Kent and the Duke of Kent. Not surprisingly, Jane wasn't able to meet them herself, as there were so many guests in the queues waiting to greet them.

Jane had the BEM, invitation cards and other memorabilia to show us, as well as numerous photographs of herself and husband Mike and other guests all dressed in their special outfits.

Unfortunately it was a very wet day, and all the guests were under umbrellas and couldn't have their refreshments in the open air but had to shelter under the marquees balancing trays of the delicious, dainty food along with their umbrellas, bags etc. as best they could! There was a lively atmosphere provided by two brass bands and although it was raining guests were able to mingle and stroll around the grounds if they wished. All in all, it was a very exciting but exhausting day for Jane and her husband, but certainly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Jane received our thanks for a very informative and entertaining afternoon.

Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon

TALENTS CHALLENGE

At the beginning of the school holidays we launched a Talents Challenge, and Andrew gave out a pile of £10 notes to people who wanted to take up the challenge.

On the 11 September the talents were called in! What incredible ideas had come to fruition, with people spending their £10's to produce more funds for the roof project.

Over the summer we had children making friendship bracelets, lip balm, macramé plant holders. We had older member serving meals, doing impressive sponsored walks, selling plants, and searching down the backs of family sofas!

Not everyone who took a £10 note was there on the 11 September, so I am sure there is still more money to come. So far the project has raised £800, **plus** the original £150, (a total of £950). With the outstanding money still to be returned we should have over £1,000. Which is little short of fabulous, wonderful, amazing and incredible!

Well done to everyone who took part, and if you haven't yet returned at least your original £10, you still have time!

Thanks again.

Andrew

Miscellaneous observations on life:

*A lot of people want to serve God,
but only in an advisory capacity.*

The ECO CHURCH GROUP

As mentioned last month, we are launching 'Eco Church pledges' - asking you to commit to doing something over the next two months to care for our one world. Ideas include praying; turning off standby functions; walking rather than driving in the village; eating less meat and dairy; as well as writing to your MP!

But please think of your own! Pledge cards are available from the back of church and on a form on the website.

We have suggested a two month commitment and then we would like to catch up with you to see how it is going and what you could do next!

It has been suggested that there could be a village collection point for used blister packs for pills that can be recycled at some branches of Superdrug. If you would like to be involved, we have someone who can take the packs to Superdrug but we need someone in the village /church to set this up. Could this be your pledge?

For more info on Eco church see Sally , Matthew, Catherine and Marilyn or make contact via the Parish office or website.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

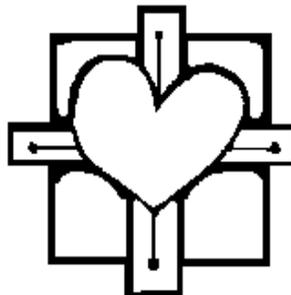
DEANERY SYNOD on 6 October at 7 for 7.30 in the Parish Room

South Craven and Wharfedale Deanery Synod is holding their next meeting in Menston and the main topic is what our deanery churches are doing on environmental issues. The meeting is open to all so do come along and encourage and be encouraged by what is happening locally.

Marilyn

A SAFE SACRED SPACE

Some months ago the Bishop of Bradford commissioned me to set up a safe space for worship, in the centre of Bradford. People who are members of the LGBT+ community are frequently told that if they don't change 'their lifestyle' they are not welcome to attend their local church.



Sometimes this is blatant with the message reinforced through sermons from the pulpit, sometimes it is much more subtle, but nonetheless unwelcoming.

Whilst the business of who you fall in love, and why, should be nobody else's business, all too often some Christians pull verses from the bible and shout them very loud; Leviticus 18.22, and 20:13 are classics along with Romans 1:23-27. However those with a wider knowledge of scripture will know that there is far more written about welcome, hospitality, ministry to those on the edge, and encouragement to seek those who are lost.

Our first service of worship, with communion was on Sunday 4 September. Fifteen people attended, ten of whom took communion. One woman with tears in her eyes said "*I've been praying for years, for this*".

I have to say this work was not something I would have ever chosen to do, but when a Bishop directs you, you tend not to say 'No'. Right now it feels like a scary job, its put me in a spotlight that I would have never chosen. Please pray for this project, for the people who are searching to know God's love and healing, and for the Church of England as we continue to find a way forward in terms of equality and inclusion for all.

Thank you.

Andrew

#LoveIsLove.

Worship this month

2 Oct The Sixteenth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: 2 Timothy 1: 1-14; Luke 17: 5-10
Reader: Dominic Hall

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm The Junction followed by the Den

9 Oct The Seventeenth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: 2 Timothy 2: 8-15; Luke 17: 11-19
Reader: Elizabeth Leopold

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm The Junction followed by the Den

16 Oct The Eighteenth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: 2 Timothy 3: 14—4:5; Luke 18: 1-8
Reader: Heather Greig

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm The Junction followed by the Den

23 Oct The Last Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: 2 Timothy 4: 6-18; Luke 18: 9-14
Reader: Diane Beaumont

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm The Junction followed by the Den

30 Oct ALL SAINTS / ALL SOULS
Readings: Ephesians 1: 11-end; Luke 6: 20-31
Reader: David Machin

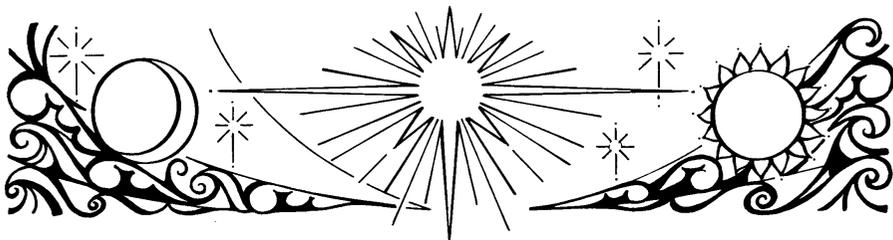
9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist
6.00pm The Junction followed by the Den

6 Nov The Third Sunday before ADVENT
Readings: 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-end; Luke 20: 27-38
Reader: Dorothy Slater

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist
6.00pm The Junction followed by the Den

MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

9.30am Thursdays: 6 / 13 / 20 / 27 October



FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY MATRIMONY *We extend our congratulations to:*
10 September Niccolas Hewitt & Imogen Shaw

FUNERAL SERVICES *We commend into the hands of Almighty God:*
26 August Joseph (Joe) Dixon
1 September Memorial Service for David Johnson

The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul, Pickering, North Yorkshire

This ancient building sits on top of a small hill in the centre of Pickering. The beautiful stone spire is visible for miles around and dominates the landscape.

It is a remarkable church as it contains one of the most complete sets of medieval wall paintings in Britain and to step into this church is to step back in time. The wall paintings were probably first commissioned in 1450 and were painted in the following decade. Only 100 years later they were covered as part of the general process of the Protestant Reformation. The paintings were accidentally rediscovered in 1852 during restoration, when a thick coat of plaster was removed from the walls of the nave.

Many people came to view the 'frescoes' but they were subsequently covered again by a heavy coat of whitewash. The then vicar felt that they were a distraction from his sermon and were full of 'Popish superstitions'. During extensive renovations in 1876, it was decided to remove the whitewash and restore the wall paintings to their former splendour and further restorations have taken place over the years.

In the Middle Ages, church paintings were there as an aid to worship and to allowed the largely illiterate congregations to understand religious stories. It was said that scenes of martyrdom helped those people face the closeness of death.

On entering the church, we are faced with the 2 large illustrated figures of St George and St Christopher and the paintings continue along the north and south walls of the nave, some extending as far as the roof and between the spandrels of the arches of the nave. It is almost impossible to take in every detail of the paintings, no matter how long you stay and it is amazing how some visitors just walk up and down and out again. They are missing a fantastic opportunity.

Some of the scenes of martyrdoms, St John the Baptist, St Edmund, St Thomas Becket and St Catherine are quite detailed but it is only in the church booklet that they become more obvious than on the walls, as also do The Seven Corporal Acts of Mercy taken from the text of St Matthew: Ch 25, 35 – 37. They are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 To feed the hungry. | 2 To give drink to the thirsty. |
| 3 To shelter the stranger. | 4 To clothe the naked. |
| 5 To visit those in prison. | 6 To tend to the sick. |
| 7 To bury the dead. | |

These were then followed by The Passion and Crucifixion of Christ. The Descent into Hell and Christ's Resurrection take us to the final spandrel and back to the entrance porch.

The church itself, which has been changed and improved over many years, also has many other interesting features. Originally a Saxon church, an early Norman church was re-built in about 1140 in a simple cruciform lay-out. Various drastic alterations took place during the 12th to 15th centuries, with the additions of the north and south aisles, the Tower and the Chantry chapels. Extensive refurbishment was also carried out in the 1870s with the box pews being replaced. The Font is thought to be of Saxon origin and the East Window is a 20c. abstract design representing the Ascension.

The church is the Parish Church for Pickering and seeks to serve the whole community and to be 'there' for all who need its ministry.

The Parish Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,

You call us to follow you in our journey through life;
Guard us and guide us along the road that lies ahead.
Be with us every step of the way,
and lead us safely home. Amen.

A most wonderful experience.

Bryan and Janet Kitching.

IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER ...

200 years ago, on 20 October 1822 that the Sunday Times newspaper was first published in the UK.

175 years ago, on 6 October 1847 that Charlotte Bronte's novel *Jane Eyre* was first published, under the penname of Currer Bell.

150 years ago, on 12 October 1872 that Ralph Vaughan Williams, British composer, was born.

100 years ago, on 18 October 1922 that the BBC was officially founded as the British Broadcasting Company (now the British Broadcasting Corporation.)

70 years ago, on 6 October 1952 that the world premiere of Agatha Christie's play, *The Mousetrap* opened in Nottingham. It then opened in London on 25 November, and is still running, making it the world's longest-running play. It has been performed more than 28,000 times.

60 years ago, from 16 - 28 October 1962 that the Cuban missile crisis began when the USA discovered that the Soviet Union had deployed ballistic missiles in Cuba. After days of tense negotiations the Soviet Union agreed to dismantle and remove the weapons. In exchange, the USA agreed not to invade Cuba, and to remove its own ballistic missiles from Turkey and Italy that were targeting the Soviet Union. Historians believe that the crisis was the closest the two countries has come to full-scale nuclear war.

40 years ago, on 11 October 1982 that Henry VIII's flagship the *Mary Rose* was raised from the bottom of the Solent, off the coast of southern England, 437 years after it sank.

Parish Pump News Service

Archbishops' Quiz

The recent Lambeth Conference turned my thoughts to the office of Archbishop of Canterbury. This little quiz will test your knowledge of some of the past and present holders of this office.

1. Who was the first Archbishop of Canterbury?
2. Which Archbishop was murdered in his cathedral in 1170?
3. Name the Archbishop who was burnt at the stake in the centre of Oxford in 1556.
- 4.a. How many Archbishops of Canterbury have we had since 1945?
b. How many of them can you name?
5. Which of them moved from York to Canterbury?
6. Why were Menston St John's parishioners so delighted by one of these appointments? (ref. answer to Q.5).

Heather Greig

Answers overleaf



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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in John chapter 2 verses 1 to 10

Jesus, his mother, and his disciples were guests at a family wedding in Cana. The bridegroom was responsible for the food and drink.

The wedding feasts went on for days

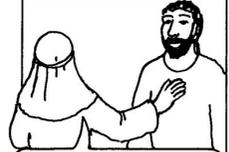


Then the wine ran out...



What a disaster! The bridegroom and his family would be shamed for life, and perhaps even sued!

Mary noticed...



Jesus, they've run out of wine!

So why are you telling me?



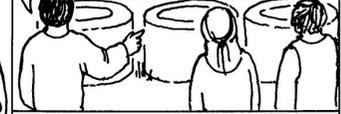
But Mary wasn't put off.

She told the servants



Do whatever he tells you.

Fill those six jars to the top with water



The water was for the special washing of hands before meals

and each jar held about 100 litres



Now take some out and serve it to the toast-master



He tried it....



... then he called to the bridegroom..



Most people serve the best wine first, then the rest later, but..

... this is the best wine I've ever tasted!



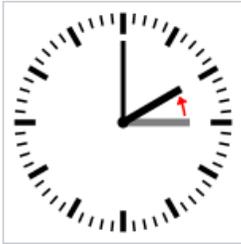
Impressive!



NOTICE BOARD

SUMMERTIME ENDS

A reminder that the clocks go
BACK one hour on
Sunday 30 October.



*Answers to quiz on p17:
1 St Augustine 2 Becket
3 Cranmer 4 a7 bFisher,
Ramsay, Coggan, Runcie,
Carey, Williams, Welby.
5 Ramsay and Coggan.
6 Because our former Bishop
of Bradford was moving to
Canterbury.*

ALTAR FLOWERS

9 October	Elizabeth Leopold
16 October	Elizabeth Leopold
23 October	Charmian Thomas
30 October	All Saints / All Souls



Light Up St John's – Floodlight Sponsorship

Now that the dark winter nights have arrived this is a very special way to mark an anniversary or simply to give thanks. The cost is £5 per evening which helps to cover the costs of floodlighting the church from dusk until 10.30pm.

9 & 16 October **Remembered with love - Colin and Karl**

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