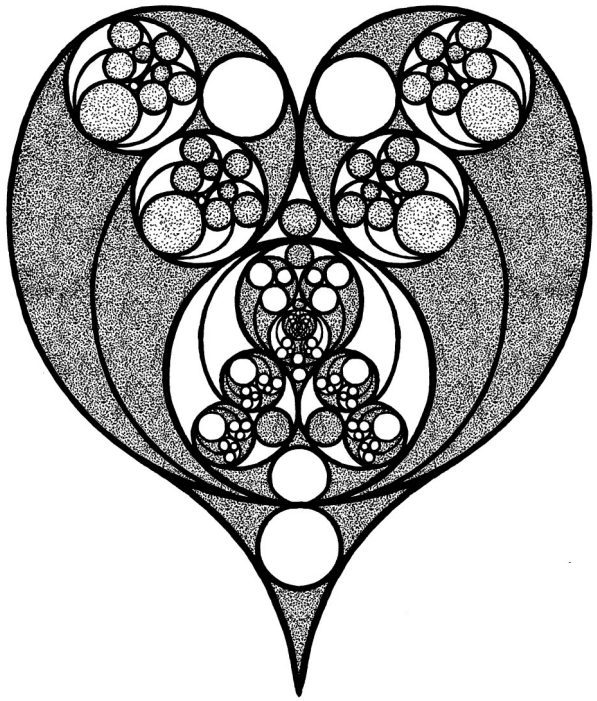


2023

MENSTON  
PARISH CHURCH  
St John the Divine

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Y



60p

*The steadfast love of  
the Lord never ceases.  
Lamentations 3:22*



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# *STOP PRESS*

## Magazine price

*Editor:* I begin with a sincere apology. In last month's magazine I wrote that the cost of the magazine would remain at 60p per copy for 2023. However, it was not until the preparation of the church accounts for 2022 revealed a marked increase in the cost of magazine production that it became necessary to review the price of the magazine.

With the vicar's agreement, it has been decided that we need to raise the cost of a magazine to £1 from April of this year, £10 for a year's subscription. This is in line with other local church magazines. The last price increase was in February 2017, six years ago.

I'm sorry if this causes any difficulties, particularly for the magazine distributors collecting subscriptions for the coming year with this magazine. They do sterling work on behalf of St John's.

I hope that you feel able to continue to take this magazine - we do not want to lose any of our readers. Thank you.

*Jan Alexander*

### **This month**

P6	A View from the Pews	P10	Open Table Bradford
P7	Prayer Points	P14	Menston MU news
P8	Eco-church news	P16	Paradox of our Time

Copy for the MARCH magazine is due by **Sunday 12 February**. Please email copy to both editor and Parish Office ([office@stjohnmenston.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohnmenston.org.uk)) or leave copy for typing with the office.

## The Vicarage

### Dear Friends

Happy New Year (belatedly)!

I began work in 2023 by reading the first chapter of Acts. In it, Jesus gives his disciples final instructions, including that they should be his witnesses to the ends of the earth, and then the disciples get together and replace Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus. Immediately after this, in Acts 2, there is the account of the Holy Spirit's coming at Pentecost.

I've been struck by the juxtaposition of what feels like the very grand, important and spiritual (Jesus's ascension and Pentecost) providing the sandwich which is filled by what could seem a much more human, menial and certainly earthy task of choosing a new disciple. Putting the material together in this order feels like a slightly odd choice from the author of Acts. The ascension would flow into Pentecost much more easily without this tricky political moment in the disciples' lives thrown in.

But the fact this episode is wedged in there should encourage us as we think about our own Christian ministry in Menston. The 'this-world' stuff of parish exists in the middle of the 'other-worldly-feeling' stuff of faith: there is room for both – church services and church roofs; celebrations of Pentecost and discussions of church central heating; bearing witness to Jesus throughout our village and rotas to enable the work to happen.

It isn't a straightforward juxtaposition though, as if we switch modes from the sacred to the practical. In Acts 1, Jesus gives his

final instructions whilst eating, and the decision about replacing the 'dodgy' disciple is very much steeped in scripture and prayer. There is no purely sacred or purely practical. It is all, in the end, sacred practice. The things the disciples did, or were commanded to do, or were led to do, were all intensely practical whilst shot through with divine inspiration, command and guidance.

In a year when as a church community we will sit gratefully under a watertight roof, but have to deal with spiralling energy bills, and in which we will certainly struggle to pay our Parish Share supporting the work of the wider Church across the Diocese, let us make this sense of 'sacred practice' our habit. Let us work at filling all the practical discussions of parish life with prayer and scripture, and let us be inspired by God amidst the practicalities of our mission to Menston and in our worship together. Let our own personal sacred practices of prayer and Bible reading bring God into the wider world of our friends, families and work this year, making all these interactions sacred too.

This is hard. We need the Holy Spirit to help us. It was no different for the disciples, and hence, Acts chapter 2 and Pentecost. May the Spirit fill you as you practice the sacred in all aspects of your lives this year.

*Steve*

## **A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall**

January 27th is Holocaust Memorial Day marking the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. So I have a question for you. How many Holocaust victims can you name? Anne Frank, obviously, but very quickly I start to struggle. A search on Wikipedia brings up names of victims who were significant for one reason or another but that is cheating. What strikes me is the ordinariness of so many of the victims. Let me give you an example.

I wrote this piece on 9 January. That day would have been the 81<sup>st</sup> birthday of Jacob de Mesquita. Jacob was born in Amsterdam. His parents were Jewish and, as you can imagine, Jacob – like millions of others – was murdered by the Nazis. He was killed around the age of ten months.

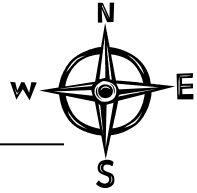
I have criticised social media in the past for its seeming lack of responsibility. When used for good it can be a powerful force for education and community. Had I not been following the Auschwitz Memorial Twitter account I would never have heard of Jacob. Every day the Auschwitz memorial posts a photo of someone on the anniversary of their birth. Sadly, most of them were murdered by the Nazis. It gives me pause, especially when the victim is a child, like Jacob, to think of what their lives could have been, the contributions they could have made, the people not here because they were not allowed to live.

It is sobering to think that the estimated six million lives lost is only part of the story. Imagine the paintings not painted, the books not written, the music not composed or performed, the children not born the legacies, ancestries, histories not shared.

Jacob may have grown up to be a lawyer, a dancer, a scientist, a teacher, a father, a lover, myriad possibilities for a life not lived. When we think of the impact of the Holocaust, I wonder whether we merely shake our heads at the terrible loss, believe it could not happen again and move on with our own lives.

This month, as we reflect on Holocaust Memorial Day, I would like to offer a challenge. If you are on Twitter then follow the Auschwitz Memorial account, if not, try to find the name of a victim of the Holocaust with whom you share a birthday. Once you have found them, spend a little time reflecting on the life they did not live. Think of the future they were denied and maybe say a prayer for them one Sunday.

# Prayer Points



Lord, I have time.

All men run after time, Lord  
They pass through life running, hurried, overburdened, and they  
never get there. They haven't time.  
In spite of all their efforts they're still short of time,  
of a great deal of time.  
Lord, you must have made a mistake in your calculations.  
There is a big mistake somewhere.  
The hours are too short,  
The days are too short.  
Our lives are too short.

You who are beyond time, Lord, you smile to see us fighting it.  
And you know what you are doing.  
You make no mistake in your distribution of time to men.  
You give each one time to do what you want him to do.

But we must not lose time, or waste time, or kill time,  
For time is a gift that you give us,  
But a perishable gift,  
A gift that does not keep.

Lord, I have time,  
I have plenty of time,  
All the time that you give me,  
The years of my life,  
The days of my years,  
The hours of my days,  
They are all mine.  
Mine to fill, quietly, calmly,  
But to fill completely, up to the brim,  
To offer them to you.

I am not asking you today, Lord, for time to do this and then that,  
But your grace to do conscientiously, in the time that you give to  
me, what you want me to do.

*From 'Prayers of Life' by Michel Quoist*

*With thanks to Hilary Feathers for this month's Prayer Points*

## The Eco - Church Group

It seems a long time ago, but many thanks to everyone who posted communal cards in the Christmas Post box and thank you to whoever displayed the cards on the baptistry screen! It is a great way to save some of the world's precious resources and share in the life of the church community!

The Eco church group are now working on the planning stages for bee and bug hotels for the churchyard to be made with the young people at The Core. I am sure help will be needed so if you have skills for such a project, please get in touch!

The large pots for planting will soon be prepared for seed sowing and work is ongoing to see if we can use the Parish Room roof water to supply a water butt - not quite so simple as we first thought. We will be planting the donated apple tree shortly - to the left of the path as you approach the church- now that the faculty has been granted.

Please continue to support the bake sale that takes place on the first Sunday of each month together with the craft stall. Baking is undertaken in line with the LOAF principles: Local, organic, animal friendly and fairtrade. Something for all bakers/cooks to aim for ?

We are planning to organise an Eco quiz for families shortly and an Easter Saturday trail in the churchyard, so do look out for those. There might also be a chance to visit a recycling centre, so if you are interested, please get in touch.

It is still possible to make a climate pledge. Cards at the back of church and online [here](#) (scroll to the bottom of the page). If each of us pledges one action, we can bring about big changes!

Many thanks for your support of these various initiatives.

For more info on Eco church see Sally, Matthew, Catherine, Jeanne-Claire or Marilyn or make contact via the Parish office or website. Do join us if you would like to get involved. Next meeting is on 7 February in the evening.



## Climate Action Menston

In January, we ran a recycling event at Kirklands to enable people to recycle items such as blister packs and crisp packets which do not go in the kerbside bins. A surprising amount was collected. We are hoping that we can arrange recycling of such items more locally than Superdrug in Leeds or Keighley, so please watch out for updates.

Our *Let's Get Walking* leaflet has been delivered to residents of the new homes in the village and led to some good conversations. The pedestrian access from St John's View onto Hawksworth Drive will be a big help to people living there, especially those with children at the school. We are still keen to see progress on the Primary school crossing and other improvements to Main Street for pedestrians.

There are plans for a Community Fridge at Kirklands - the idea being to avoid food waste. So anyone with spare food can donate it to the fridge and anyone can collect from it. More details coming soon.

We have been loaning out a couple of energy monitors to local residents so that people can see how much energy particular appliances use and also the cost. If you are interested in borrowing one of these, please get in touch.

We will next be meeting on 22 February at Kirklands at 7.30pm. Do come along for a dose of climate related activity!

For more information see Marilyn or contact via <https://climateactionmenston.org.uk/>

## Open Table Bradford

What does go on in Bradford on a Sunday Evening?

You may remember that several months ago Steve invited me to share with you a piece of work that I had been commissioned by Bishop Toby to lead on.

When we talk about welcoming people into our Church, sadly for a variety of reasons there is a collection of people who feel or are made to feel that the welcome does not include them. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people (LGBT+) have felt excluded on the grounds that for very many years.

Society and the Church have talked, preached, and interpreted Gods word as if it were only for people that are considered as 'normal'. In spite of what people might think, what takes place on the first Sunday of the month, is 'normal'.

We hold a simple act of worship that features a time to share concerns, introduce ourselves, pray for each other. There is a reading from the Bible, a reflection of some sort, and communion.

In the service of Communion there is, whenever we take part, a sense that God is ministering directly to us - a God who knows all about us, and yet still loves us and puts themself into our hands in the form of bread and wine. It is the most intimate part of Christian worship, and the most affirming.

This is why we are *Open Table*, inviting people to come just as they are. For those who do come, it is sometimes overwhelming to feel so welcome and so accepted.

Since we began in September 2022, we have been in contact with over 30 different people. We average an attendance of between 16 and 18, but until this month we haven't advertised or promoted the group. Those involved from the beginning can see

God is clearly at work here, opening not just doors, but hearts too, to welcome home those who have never felt invited, or worthy to be invited.

So that is it, nothing strange or unidentifiable from any other place of worship, except people are more than welcome to just come as they are. No awkward questions, no need for explanations, certainly no judgement, just a welcome.

I do want to say a very big thank you to all of you who have prayed for us, who have supported us in different ways, and for those on a personal journey, who are thinking about things they have never had to think about before. God bless us...everyone!

*Andrew*



## **CHARITABLE GIVING for 2023**

St John's charitable giving in 2023 will go to

- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) also known as Doctors Without Borders
- Samaritans
- Wheatfields Hospice, Headingley

A new PowerPoint presentation will run before the 11am service for a few weeks and details can also be found on the porch notice board. Articles about the work of each of these charities will appear periodically in the magazine and it is hoped get a speaker from one of these charities in the summertime.

*Outreach Group*

# Worship this month

**5 Feb     The Third Sunday before LENT**  
**Readings: 1 Corinthians 2: 1-end; Matthew 5: 13-20**  
*Reader: Glenys Prince*

9.30am    Zest  
11.00am   Parish Eucharist  
6.00pm    6pm Service ~ Genesis 39  
7-8pm     The Den

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**12 Feb    The Second Sunday before LENT**  
**Readings: Romans 8: 18-25; Matthew 6: 25-end**  
*Reader: Dominic Hall*

9.30am    Zest  
11.00am   Parish Eucharist  
7-8pm     The Den

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**19 Feb    The Sunday next before LENT**  
**Readings: 2 Peter 1: 16-end; Matthew 17: 1-9**  
*Reader: Wendy Thornhill*

9.30am    Zest  
11.00am   Parish Eucharist  
6.00pm    6pm Service ~ Genesis 40-41  
7-8pm     The Den

---

**26 Feb    The First Sunday of LENT**  
**Readings: Romans 5: 12-19; Matthew 21: 1-11**  
*Reader: Diane Beaumont*

9.30am    Zest  
11.00am   Parish Eucharist  
6.30pm    *Ilkley All Saints ~ 'Release'*

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**5 Mar The Second Sunday of LENT**

**Readings: Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17; Matthew 21: 12-17, 23-27**

**Reader: Elizabeth Leopold**

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm 6pm Service ~ Genesis 42-44

7-8pm The Den

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**MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*9.30am Thursdays: 2 / 9 / 16 / 23 and 2 March*

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**WORSHIP NOTES**

**ASH WEDNESDAY 22 February**

This special service marking the beginning of Lent will take place in church at 9.30am.



***Do you have burning questions about your faith?***

Things that you just don't understand, that lead you perhaps even to doubt?

Things that your friends and family say which makes faith sound less believable, but you don't know what to say in return?

Whether you worry about suffering, science, or just how to untangle spaghetti, it's important to talk about bits of Christianity with which we struggle.

If you have questions about faith, then please write them down and put them in the box at the back. These will be collected, and we're hoping to be able to address at least some of them over the coming months in one way or another.

*Thanks, Steve.*



**This month:**

Tuesday 7 February      2.15 pm    Social Afternoon in the Parish Room – just to enjoy a time of fellowship together over tea and biscuits.

Tuesday 21 February      2.15 pm    AGM followed by Shrovetide Social

At our last meeting in December 2022, Steve presided over our Advent Service in church to which we had invited MU members from St Oswald's Church, Guiseley to join with us. We had a good attendance of 30 members in church and afterwards in the Parish Room for festive refreshments, and a good time was had by all!

We hope to do more of this kind of thing in the future, due to dwindling membership in many branches in our area. It is good to report that most of St John's members are continuing to support our branch with their subscriptions so that we can continue to function for some time yet.

Members may be interested to see the following report and photograph which was sent to the Leeds Diocesan MU Newsletter by our branch link of Cumberworth, nr Holmfirth following their visit to us last October. They enjoyed their lunch at the Wetherby Whaler and then coming into Menston to visit St John's, admiring the new roof and views from the church entrance, as their glowing report describes:-

## News from Cumberworth and Menston

*Branch Leader Sue Holt says* 'Some years ago each branch in the Huddersfield Area was given a branch in another area to have contact with. I am writing on behalf of the Cumberworth, Denby and Denby Dale Branch and we were given the Menston Branch as our 'partner'. At first, we wrote to each other about our branches and then exchanged Christmas and Easter cards.

However, in lockdown, I started to speak on the phone with their Branch Secretary, Mrs Ann Dixon. Subsequently, we decided to try to meet up and in October four of us from my branch went over to meet them at the Wetherby Whaler in Guiseley. In total there were 17 of us who all sat down together and enjoyed a lovely, convivial lunch. Afterwards, we went back to Menston to see their church which is absolutely charming.

It was a great day, thoroughly enjoyed by all and in the spring we are hoping that perhaps a few of them can come over to see us. If not, I think that we will certainly try to get over there again to meet up with them. What lovely people they were!

*Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon*

*Editor: Well done St John's MU! Sue Holt sent a lovely photograph of the whole group taken in the Wetherby Whaler. Sadly, it won't print very well in the magazine. Do speak to Marjorie if you would like to see it.*

## **The Paradox of our Time (often misattributed to George Carlin)**

The paradox of our time in history is that  
we have taller buildings but shorter tempers;  
wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints.  
We spend more, but have less;  
we buy more but enjoy less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families,  
more conveniences, but less time;  
we have more degrees, but less sense;  
more knowledge, but less judgement;  
more experts, yet more problems,  
more medicine, but less wellness.

We drink too much, smoke too much,  
spend too recklessly,  
laugh too little, drive too fast,  
get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired,  
read too little, watch TV too much,  
and pray too seldom.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values.  
We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.  
We've learned how to make a living, but not a life,  
we've added years to life not life to years.

We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have  
trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbour.  
We conquered outer space but not inner space.  
We've done larger things, but not better things.

We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul.  
We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudice.  
We write more, but learn less.  
We plan more, but accomplish less.  
We've learned to rush, but not to wait.



We build more computers to hold more information to  
produce more copies than ever, but we communicate less and less .

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion;  
big men and small character;  
steep profits and shallow relationships.  
These are the days of two incomes but more divorce,  
fancier houses but broken homes.

These are days of quick trips, disposable nappies,  
throw-away morality, one-night stands, overweight bodies,  
and pills that do everything from cheer to quiet, to kill.

It is a time when there is much in the shop window  
and nothing in the stockroom.

A time when technology can bring this letter to you, and a time when  
you can choose either to share this insight, or to just hit delete.

Remember, spend some time with your loved ones,  
because they are not going to be around forever.

Remember, say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe,  
because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side.

Remember, to give a warm hug to the one next to you,  
because that is the only treasure you can give with  
your heart and it doesn't cost a cent.

Remember, to say 'I Love you' to your partner and  
your loved ones, but most of all mean it.  
A kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes  
from deep inside of you.

Give time to Love, give time to speak, give time to share the precious  
thoughts in your mind.

*Ed: Found among some old Prayer of Quiet papers by Kathy Roberts.  
Apparently it was written in the late 20th century, then recirculated  
after the Columbine High School shooting in 1999. Life doesn't seem to  
have changed much!*

## 2025 Menston Heritage Group

Our two strands of work at present relate to gathering archive material for Menston and also devising a heritage trail for Bradford City of Culture 2025.

Kirklands Trust have kindly given us the use of one of the library rooms for the archive and we will be working on setting that up this spring.

Work is now starting on researching people and places

in Menston that are worthy of being part of a trail. We are setting out a timeline and seeing how far we can go back - cup and ring stones?

We will be meeting the Creative Director for Bradford City of Culture 2025 at the end of January and it will be interesting to hear what she has to say.

Do get in touch if you are interested in getting involved.

*Marilyn or via the Parish Office.*



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## FROM THE REGISTERS

### **HOLY BAPTISM**

29 January

*We welcome into the Lord's family:*

Alexander Michael Stables

### **FUNERAL SERVICES**

20 January

*We commend into the hands of Almighty God:*

Sheila Yeadon

## ALTAR FLOWERS

11 February

Jenny Steele

19 February

Marjorie Boddy



***Lent begins on Wednesday 22 February.*** In accordance with Church of England tradition there will be no flowers in church from then until Easter Day.

If you would like to ***sponsor*** the flowers for a week in the coming year, perhaps to remember a loved one or an anniversary, please add your name to the list in the porch. If you are unable to arrange them yourselves speak to Jan Alexander - a member of the church flower team will be happy to either do them for you or help you to do them yourself. Vases are quite acceptable containers.

A new flower rota will be placed in the church porch next month. Sincere thanks to all who have provided the lovely altar flowers during the last year - they help to enhance our worship.

## Light Up St John's – Floodlight Sponsorship

17 Feb Special memories of my beloved Mum

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. Contact the Parish Office to make arrangements: 872433 or [office@stjohnmenston.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohnmenston.org.uk)

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## **Welcome to our Guiseley Clinic.**

### **Traditional Podiatry for treatment of**

Nails, hard skin, corns, ingrowing toenails, verrucae, etc

### **Biomechanical Assessments treating**

Sports injuries, running/walking injuries, general foot pain, heel pain, lower back and hip pain, knee pain, children's foot pain, etc.

Tendon, muscle and ligament rehabilitation.

Gait retraining for both walkers and runners.

### **Fascial Manipulation**

Fascial Manipulation is used to restore normal, pain free movement and flexibility of joints, muscles, tendons, nerves, etc. Used in the treatment of sciatica, general hip pain, knee problems, ankle and foot problems and many other conditions. This is not a pain free treatment but the effects can be immediate.

**Please visit our website for more information**

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