

2025

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MENSTON
PARISH CHURCH
St John the Divine



*'The day the power of love
overrules the love of power,
the world will know peace.'*

£1

Mahatma Gandhi



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Contact Kathryn Lindsay BSc(Hons)

Andrew Lindsay BSc(Hons)

Phone 01943 872716

Email info@thefootpeople.co.uk

Website www.thefootpeople.co.uk

Everybody Counts - Summer Conversations

Over the summer we have spent some time reflecting on what it means to be inclusive and a community for all.

There are still a few sessions left. Please do join us for some time together and informal conversation:

- ***Malt Shovel*** - Tuesday at 8pm on 2 & 9 September
- ***Online via Zoom*** - Thursday at 7pm on 4 September

Meeting ID: 919 2421 3411 Passcode: 724793.

Question of the month

September marks the start of the school year. Children reading this might not agree but they are the 'best years of your life'. We may have had subjects at school that we were good at and those it was a struggle to sit through. My question for you to consider this month is;

What was your favourite subject at school?

Copy for the OCTOBER magazine is due by **Sunday 14 September**. Please email copy to both editor and Parish Office (***office@stjohnmenston.org.uk***) or leave copy for typing with the office.

The Vicarage

Friends

Over summer we have been prompted to think about what it means to be a community where Everybody Counts. I posed the question one Sunday morning:

‘Who does church belong to...?’

‘Us’, ‘the diocese’, ‘the community’, ‘the village’ the suggestions came.

Then ‘God’.

Exactly. The church belongs to Christ. It is not mine, nor yours, nor theirs. It is His.

What difference does that make to how we understand why St John’s is here and who St John’s is here for?

We are Christ’s church in Menston in 2025 and it is our calling to be his hands and feet on earth – he has none but us. And He longs to call and heal all people.

That includes those who differ from us in age, politics, orientation, identity, home life and culture. Whilst Menston might not appear to be very diverse compared to other places, within a population of 6,000+, there will be plenty of difference, and plenty of people who do not know that Jesus loves them.

That is our mission field.

We can only live up to our calling of being Christ’s church if we are open to connecting with others and drawing them in to hear and experience God’s love for themselves.

- What can we do to extend God’s love to all in Menston?
- Are all people able to join us in worship and fellowship?
- How can we make sure they know we want them to?

These are the questions we need to be reflecting on and asking ourselves.

We are not here for our own benefit. We are here to love God and each other, and in doing so will find our own true and deepest needs are met – hope, peace and joy will be ours and theirs.

Its doesn't mean it won't be uncomfortable. Anyone who has been part of a group knows that it is not possible for everyone to get everything their own way all the time. Being welcoming and inclusive is radical - but for the love of God might we challenge ourselves to be ever more generous and ever more willing to think of others first.

May you be challenged and comforted by the love of Christ,

Rev'd Jo

The call and challenge of loving others:



A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

I have been reflecting on our June Bible Bash and Prayer Slam. I did the wee small hours slot – a sucker for punishment – but I am glad that I did. First, it meant there were very few people to hear me strangle the names of Melchizedek and Tychicus; secondly, talking into a quiet church is magical; but mostly, because it was hard to be awake, alert and focussed at 3am!

Coming to church is, if we're honest, relatively easy for most of us. We get up, have a shower, get dressed, eat some breakfast and pop along to church. It is lovely to catch up with friends, share news of our week and engage in some life affirming worship. The times when it is harder are, I think, when it becomes truly special.

For most people in the country, coming to church, other than to sing carols at Christmas, revolves around three key human rites of passage – baptisms, weddings and funerals. For those involved in the ceremonies there are unique difficulties and opportunities.

Baptisms often involve new parents trusting their children to others – be it the vicar hoping not to drop the baby; or the wider Christian community as we pledge to be there for the newly baptised.

Weddings require two people making a lifelong commitment to one another and giving up their past life where they may have wanted to 'play the field'.

Funerals mark that moment of closure when we give our loved ones back to God and come to realise their physical presence is lost to us for ever. All these services, along with the Bible Bash and other times in the year, are tough and require us to search for an inner strength. And that, it seems to me, is where we most often find God.

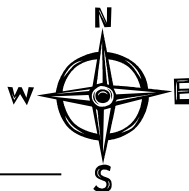
Young parents find God in the joy of welcome and in the hope that the trials they will face with their children are neither unique nor to be suffered alone.

Newlyweds find God in the love of their family and friends celebrating and supporting them as they adjust to a new life together.

Mourners find God in the comfort of knowing the pain they feel is a mark of love and that its rawness will soften and bring lighter moments of remembrance and reflection.

As for the Bible Bash, the church may have been largely empty at 3 am but God was in the voices of those who had read earlier and in the anticipation of the voices to come. The difficulty of the task is often overcome by the reassuring presence of God and the warm hug of the community – and that is a lovely feeling.

Prayer Points



Fruits of the Spirit

Spring buds change to Summer blooms, and then, here we are with Autumn fruits and harvests. September often feels like a spiritual reset - summer fades, routines return, and there's a quiet invitation to reflect and refocus.

Dear God, as September unfolds,
let us embrace fresh starts.
Thank you for the blessings of each day.
Help us notice the small joys, and express gratitude,
even in the midst of challenges.
Help us to be generous, not only with our resources
but with time, patience and love
Let us listen with empathy, and forgive with grace,
and reflect your boundless kindness onto others.

Lord, as we celebrate this season,
let us remember and give thanks to all the farmers
who work so hard throughout the year.
Help us to support those in need in the community
around us, and pray that aid workers and
charities can reach those in desperate need
throughout the world.
Help us all to live with a spirit of thankfulness,
to share what we have, and to let our gratitude
overflow into acts of generosity and love.

‘Give thanks to the Lord for He is good;
His love endures for ever’ *Psalms 107*

With thanks to Jan Woodland for this month's Prayer Points

ECO CHURCH NEWS

At the July meeting of the PCC, we put forward a proposal to open an online bank account for the church with the Co-op. The Co-op bank is one of the few banks that operate an ethical policy for investing the funds held with them. We are pleased that PCC agreed to the proposal and that will now be taken forward.



These were some of our reasons for putting forward the proposal:

- Giving our custom to banks that invest in fossil fuels means more fossil fuels are burned. The UK's 4 largest banks, HSBC, Barclays, Lloyds and NatWest have all been among the world's biggest financiers of fossil fuels.
- Poorer communities are often hit hardest by climate change. The World Economic Forum reports climate change may cause an additional 14.5 million deaths by 2050.
- As the people of God, we are called to care for those most in need. Switching banks is one simple and easy action to take to do this! Funding climate change is not good stewardship of the money God has given us. It is not loving to people and the planet.

If you are interested in changing banks, there is more information on this [website:https://justmoney.org.uk/about-us/](https://justmoney.org.uk/about-us/)
Do tell your bank why you are changing your bank -they need to know that we care about how our money is used.

If you are interested in joining the eco group, do get in touch with Marilyn, Catherine, Sally, Matthew or Jen.

Heritage Group

We have now distributed 1,300 of the Menston Heritage Trail leaflets and have another 1k to promote - let us know if you think a venue would like them. We have seen various people undertaking the trail which is great to see.

In July, the group hosted a group of asylum seekers and refugees, who worship at St John's Bowling, to do the trail and we called into church and Rev Jo made them most welcome. The group enjoyed lunch together and also walked over to High Royds. We were grateful to the Shipley Area committee for a Culture is Cohesion Bradford 2025 grant to make this visit possible.

In September, as part of Heritage Week, 12-21 September, we plan to display information in the library about the archive we have created. Do have a look.

Climate Action Menston

All are welcome to the next Climate Action Menston meeting on Wednesday 24 September at 7.30pm in Kirklands to hear from two speakers about 'Surviving the Climate Emergency'.

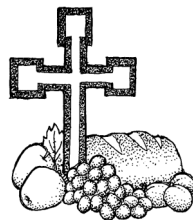


Ben Lowe and Reinhard Huss have expertise on Citizens Assemblies, Universal Basic Income, Renewables, Reaching Net Zero as well as how to create more biodiversity. There will be time for questions and discussion so do come along for what should be a fascinating evening.

Everyone is welcome but we encourage people to join CAM if they support the cause and it makes it easier for us to be in touch about upcoming events. The subscription of £10 pa helps us pay for the website and room hire.

HARVEST INFO

Our collections at the Harvest Zest (**20 September**) and the Harvest Together Service (**Sunday 5 October**) will be for Christian Aid. Do give generously.



Their work in many areas of the world continues to change lives in ways it is hard for us to imagine. Cal Bailey, who many of you will know, will be telling us more about his visit to a Christian Aid project in Bangladesh at the joint 10am Harvest Service. Do come along and hear more.

Zest @Kirklands Saturday 20 September - 2pm

We will be taking Zest out into the Community for a Harvest Special, exploring the issues of the world today through the story of Joseph and his amazing technicolour dream coat! Crafts, music, worship, refreshments and even some real alpacas to meet and walk!



Book a slot to walk an Alpaca by visiting our website: <https://www.stjohnmenston.org.uk/>

Miscellaneous observations on daily life

Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass.

It's about learning to dance in the rain.



ST JOHN'S, MENSTON

Harvest

Everyone Together

10AM SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER

**Join us as we come together
for a special Harvest Service
with guest preacher Cal Bailey**

Followed by a bring & share lunch in the Parish Room

In support of
Christian Aid



Worship this month

7 Sept The Twelfth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Hebrews 13: 1-3; Matthew 25: 31-40
Reader: Elizabeth Leopold

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist

14 Sept The Thirteenth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Proverbs 3: 1-10; Mark 14: 3-9
Reader: Diane Beaumont

9.30am Zest with Communion
11.00am Parish Eucharist

21 Sept The Fourteenth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: 2 Corinthians 8: 1-15; Luke 21: 1-4
Reader: Glenys Prince

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist
3.00pm CORE in the Parish Room

28 Sept The Fifteenth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: James 1: 9-11, 17-19; Matthew 15: 29-39
Reader: Adele Maddy

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist

5 Oct HARVEST CELEBRATION
Reading: Matthew 6: 24-34



10.00am Everyone Together followed by a shared lunch

MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

9.30am *Thursdays: 4 / 11 / 18 / 25 / Oct 2*

GENEROSITY SEASON

**‘all things come from you, and of your own
have we given you’ [1 Chronicles 29:14]**

This verse is part of King David's prayer, and it expresses the truth that everything good we have is ultimately a gift from God. This emphasizes that us humans are merely stewards of what God has provided and that our giving is, in essence, returning what is already His.

It is this faith and understanding that is to drive our giving of time, money and talents for the benefit of God's kingdom. We are called to count our blessings, give thanks for them and share them. Whether you have been blessed with skills, energy, spare time or wealth you are called by faith to share what you have to support the mission of the God's church, which is that all may know and live in the love of Christ. Leading up to Harvest we will be having a Generosity and Gratitude Season through which we will reflect on a biblical example of generosity, the needs of St John's, what we are grateful for, before ending with a St John's Harvest Celebration in support of Christian Aid. My prayer is that over this season, we all might listen for how God would like to use our lives and resources to further his Kingdom of love for all.

Blessings,

Jo

Financial support of St John's

Regular funding through the Parish Giving Service (PGS) is our preferred method of financial support as it is low admin and enables us to plan ahead.

To set up a regular support payment, or a one-off, donation please visit PGS online: www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/menston-w-woodhead-st-john-bradford/

Or pick up a form in church.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, MENSTON

**AN EVENING OF LIVE
MUSIC WITH**

TIME WARP

**CLASSIC HITS FROM THE
50S, 60S, 70S & LATER**

FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER, 7.30PM

**TICKETS £15 - INCLUDE A
GLASS OF WINE/PROSECCO
AND NIBBLES**

**TICKETS FROM JUDITH & DAVID - 01943 879290 OR
PARISH OFFICE - OFFICE@STJOHNMENSTON.ORG.UK, 01943 872433**

MONEY RAISED FOR CHURCH FUNDS.

PAYMENT FOR TICKETS - CASH ONLY



This month: *Start of new programme*

2 September 2.15pm Opening Service in church, led by
the Revd Joanna Glenwright.
Refreshments afterwards in the Parish Room.

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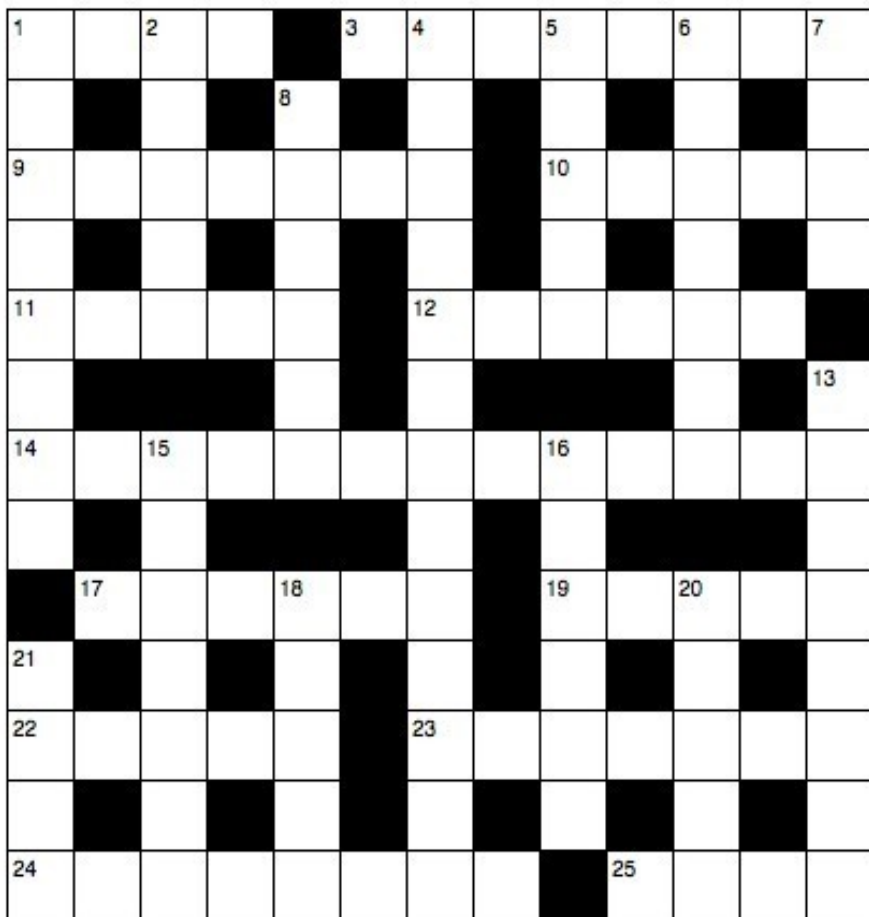
Diocese of Leeds Mothers' Union

At the Annual General Meeting of the above which was held in June 2025 at Skipton, the finances and work undertaken by MU branches in our Diocese during the previous year, were documented and published in the minutes issued to all branches.

Members are being thanked for their amazing work during 2024, when the number of people helped by them was a staggering 10,575. This help is given in their churches and at prisons, hospitals, refuges, food banks and other community projects and is impossible to measure exactly. What is evident is the love and care for the needy shown in a variety of different situations.

One of our most supported MU projects is for the AFIA caravans at Filey where 33 holidays were provided during 2024, for 60 adults and 45 children. Many of these people were able to re-assess their lives, the break away from their day-to-day life allowing them to be free from stress and the situations that they were in at home. Many thanks go to our MU members for their continual financial support.

Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon



Answers upside down on the back cover page.

Across

1 ‘A little later someone else saw Peter and said, “You — are one of them”’ (Luke 22:58) (4)

3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)

9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)

10 ‘An athlete... does not receive the victor’s crown unless he

competes according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading
 20th- century Methodist, Donald — (5)
 12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22)
 (4,2)
 14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has
 glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — —
 ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
 25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round
 his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

Down

1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will
 all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your —
 — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)
 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an
 earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)
 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord
 (Exodus 30:34) (5)
 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or
 Bulgaria (4)

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Judges 6:1-7, 11-16, 25-35

Once the Israelites had moved into their promised land, they obeyed God, but not for long, so God let other countries invade.

The Midianites invaded every year, and stole all the food the Israelites had grown.



The Israelites had to hide in the hills.



After 7 years, the Israelites called out to God for help.

Gideon was secretly threshing wheat when an angel arrived.



The Lord is helping you, mighty warrior.



I don't mean to be rude, but it doesn't look like he is.

God said



I will give you the power.



But my clan is the weakest in our tribe and I'm the weakest in my family.

I'll be helping you. Start by pulling down the altar built for Baal and build one for Me.



Gideon did as he was told (but he waited and did it at night).



In the morning, people came to complain to Gideon's father



If Baal is upset, he can take his own revenge, can't he?



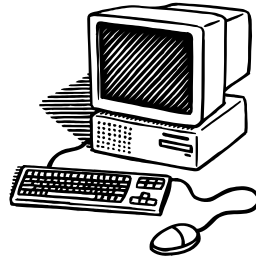
Gideon sent out messages to call men to fight the Midianites..



and 32000 came.

NOTICE BOARD

The Parish Office is closed, reopening Thursday 18 September. The administrator will be available remotely from Tuesday 16 September.



FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM
3 August

We welcome into the Lord's family:
Gareth Crooks

ALTAR FLOWERS ~ September

7	Marjorie Boddy
14	Judith Knaggs
21	Jo Glenwright
28	Jane Pratt



Bradford 2025 - Honk Festival.

As part of Bradford 2025, street bands will be playing in each of the Bradford wards on the weekend of 26- 28 September with a culmination event in City Park on the Saturday. Schools are involved too. For more information see <https://honkbradford.com/>



In Wharfedale ward, you will be able to hear the Baybeat Street band at Kirklands, Main Street, on Saturday 27 September from 11-1pm More details to follow but save the date!

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1/6th page ~ £58/year

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available on
request.***

Miscellaneous observations:

At my age, I get my daily paper, look at the
obituaries page and if I'm not there, I carry on as
usual. *Patrick Moore*

The best vitamin for a Christian is B1.



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- ♥ Home Help
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- ◆ Dementia Care
- Live-in Care
- ▮ Hospital Rehab/Recovery

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Burley-in-Wharfedale,
Ilkley, Otley & Skipton

01943 662188
[www.homeinstead.co.uk/
ilkley](http://www.homeinstead.co.uk/ilkley)

Join Us!

Home Instead Activities Group in Partnership with Kirklands Community Centre

1st Tuesday of every month, 10am-1pm, Library at Kirklands
Community Centre Menston

Memory Cafe

1st Wednesday of every month, 10am-12pm, Cornerstone Cafe
Menston

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Excellent references available.

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services advertised in this magazine*

Answers to crossword on page 16

ACROSS: 1, Also. 3, Offering. 9, The Magi. 10, Rules. 11, Soper. 12, Help me. 14, Isaac and Jacob. 17, Scorch. 19, In man. 22, Loads. 23, Inertia. 24, Vicinity. 25, Belt.

DOWN: 1, Artistic. 2, Sleep. 4, Faith in Christ. 5, Enrol. 6, Islamic. 7, Gasp. 8, Fabric. 13, Abundant. 15, Archaic. 16, Jailer. 18, Resin. 20, Mitre. 21, Slav.