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MENSTON
PARISH CHURCH
St John the Divine



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Cr̥ation

*If you would like to subscribe to the Magazine regularly please contact
the Parish Office (872433) to arrange delivery.*

Creation Celebration

A focus on God's good Creation.

During September and October we will focus on the many aspects of God's Creation.

Look out for:

♥ ***Results of the photographic competition***

♥ ***People's Emergency Briefing - film.***

Come along to St John's on Sunday 20 September 6-8pm to see this widely acclaimed film about our preparedness for the changes to our climate.

♥ ***Harvest Floral decorations*** This year, flowers on the window sills are being provided by a Community based flower arranging course led by Sandra Harder.



This month

P6	A View from the Pews	P10/11	Harvest Giving
P7	Prayer Points	P16	Abbeys Quiz
P9	Mysteries of the C of E!	P18	Bible Bites

Copy for the OCTOBER magazine is due by
Sunday 13 SEPTEMBER. Please email copy to both
editor and Parish Office.

Dear Friends

Celebration of Creation!

I am writing this in the second half of the summer holidays, having just returned from an epic trip in Canada. I felt like I could not open my eyes wide enough to see the wonder and the beauty of God's good creation there.

I am hoping this summer wherever you are or have been – at home, in the village, at the coast, in the fields, over the hill or far away you too may have taken notice of the beauty and majesty that is all around.

In the last issue of the magazine, we challenged you take photos of such wonder and submit them to via the Parish Office. We will display some of your sights and will crown some 'winners' this month as part of our Celebration of Creation this Harvest time, and in next month's magazine.

The point of this competition was not to lead to rivalry (although that did happen between my children who argued over who was baggsying which sight for a photo!) – it was to encourage each of us to seek and recognise the work of God around us.

As St Paul says in his letter to the Romans

'For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.'

The power, majesty and design of God is evident all around, if only we would notice. To quote Elizabeth Barrett Browning

'Earth's crammed with heaven

And every common bush afire with God;

But only he who sees, takes off his shoes—

The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries'.

The world is a beautiful and wonderful place, gifted to us by God himself.

Our call is to care for it and share it well. Yet how we fail at this. Jesus loves us and forgives us and shows us how to fulfil this call. But will we?

Speaking of blackberries, yesterday (9th August) I picked some – I thought how unusual. Turns out they are ripening a month early because of the extended heat. Whilst heat is usual and natural in summer there is no doubt that our summers are hotter and that our increased human activity and use of resources is contributing to a hotter environment. When we fail to care for and share God's Creation, we affect God's miraculous design, we put things out of balance and there are impacts.

Early blackberries is not the biggest problem in the world, but it shows the ecosystems is being affected by us and the longer-term consequences are a concern.

Having just been on a long-haul trip I do not preach as one who is anywhere near being the steward I could be. But I do recognise God in his Creation and I do marvel at his works. I am grateful for all he has given us and I do want to care and share more.

Do you?

With love and prayers for you all,

Jo



Blackberries ripening early this year due to hotter summer



A burning bush?

A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

By now the dust has settled, football has resolutely decided not to come home yet, and we move on with our lives into the burgeoning autumn. One thing has remained with me from this summer's FIFA World Cup. How important identity, belonging and shared experiences are to our lives. The flags of every competing nation, the passion with which each anthem was sung or the respect with which it was regarded by opponents, the sharing of joy and heartbreak helped to enhance the ^{human} experience and create a moment that brought the world together.

Too quickly, the world settles back into mean-spiritedness and ignorance when we should be keeping the togetherness of the global moments in our hearts and minds. For that reason, I would like to dwell a little while longer on the World Cup. Not the players on the pitch or bench, not the tactics, squad choices, or refereeing decisions that gave the pundits so much chatter material. Instead, I want to focus on the crowds watching in the stadia and on televisions all around the world.

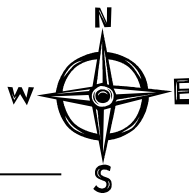
For the people of Spain, the tournament provided more moments of national joy and celebration. For other nations competing in the tournament for the first time – Cape Verde, Curaçao, Jordan and Uzbekistan – they may not have the trophy, but they do have the experience. Seeing your team playing on the TV or in person might be a new feeling for some and will have allowed them to make connections with people whom they may have walked past in the street.

Another interesting point about this connection is that the only thing that mattered was the team being supported. Here in England, we cheered the team to third place and shared that cheering with people of different faiths, races, politics, education, social status, ability. The shirt was the thing that mattered and it gave us, for that month, a collective sense of belonging.

As the autumn draws near and the domestic football season gets into swing, we are likely to fragment into supporting among others Leeds United, Newcastle United, Liverpool, Burnley and, yes, even West Ham United! Yet we still share the experiences. Whereas now we might poke some light fun at the misfortunes of other teams we will do so in the knowledge that the experience will befall all of us.

The key lesson of the World Cup for me, is that experiences both good and bad are better when they are shared. To know we belong to something bigger makes it more enjoyable and ultimately more valuable.

Prayer Points



We are, once again, at the start of a new school year, which prompted me to focus on children and young adults, especially those who are just starting school or changing to a new school.

Loving God, bless and guide all those who reach out into the Menston Community, supporting parents, and welcoming all children and young adults to our church.

Let us pray for all young people throughout the world, especially those who are held back by poverty, sickness, a lack of resources, access to education, health and job opportunities.

Dear Lord, may we recognise that our children are not just our future, but also our present. Let us not be stuck in our ways but embrace and listen to our young people, and adapt to change.

Psalm 23 for the cyber-age

The Lord is my programmer, I shall not crash.
He installed His software on the hard disk of my heart:-
All His commands are user friendly.
His directory guides me to the right choices for
His name's sake.
Even though I scroll through the problems of life,
I will fear no bugs, for He is my back-up.
His password protects me, He prepares a menu before me
in the presence of my enemies.
His help is only a keystroke away.
Surely goodness and mercy will follow me
all the days of my life.
(Unknown author)

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

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

People's Emergency Briefing - film.

Do come along to St John's on Sunday 20 September 6-8pm to see this film about our preparedness for the changes to our climate.



In November 2025, ten of the UK's leading experts briefed an invited audience of over 1,200 politicians and leaders from business, culture, faith, sport and the media. The briefing set out the implications of climate and nature breakdown for health, food systems, national security and the economy. The film that we will show has extracts from the briefing and is introduced by Chris Packham.

It has now been screened to over 1,000 community groups etc and Climate Action Menston ran a showing of the film in May but we are aware that more people are interested in seeing it. So this is your chance. The film lasts 50 mins and there will be a discussion about what has been seen and heard afterwards.

More information can be found on the National Emergency Briefing website: <https://www.nebriefing.org/>

Climate Action Menston

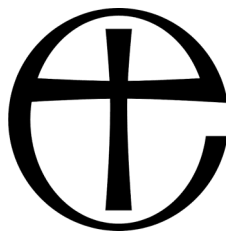
The next meeting of the group is on Wednesday 16 September at 7.30pm. The Travel and Transport working group will meet on Wednesday 14 October also at 7.30pm and both meetings will be held at Kirklands. If you want to know more, ask Marilyn

Heritage Group

If you are interested in village history and want to find out what we do the group next meets on Tuesday 20 October at 7.30pm in Kirklands. If you have information about the village that you think should be preserved do get in touch. Marilyn.

Who Knew?

It will now be well known that Bishop Toby is to be the new Bishop of Leeds but there are some formalities to go through that might be a bit surprising.



As a Lay Canon of Wakefield Cathedral I have been notified of a meeting of the College of Canons (ie canons from all the three cathedrals) to elect the new Bishop! Before the canons receive the official invitation to the meeting the Diocesan Registrar has to have received the Conge d'Elire from Buckingham Palace.

The Conge d'Elire is a licence permitting the College to meet to elect the new diocesan bishop. It is accompanied by the Letter Missive, the purpose of which is to inform the college whom we are bound to elect. Once we have confirmed by election that we are supportive of the person discerned prayerfully by the Crown Nomination Commission and approved by the King, a provincial service of Confirmation of Election can take place at York Minster. At this service, presided over by the Archbishop of York, the bishop-elect will swear an oath and receive the 'spiritualities' of the diocese-legally taking up the See and becoming the bishop. All other rights to the resources, income and powers to enable the bishop to exercise the responsibilities of office, the 'temporalities', are conferred by the King at a later date, and before the installation (enthronement) in each of the three cathedrals. These services are expected to take place in January - an opportunity to welcome, encourage and pray for our new bishop.

Someone may well want to explore the ecclesiastical law behind all this - do let me know if you do!

Marilyn Banister

HARVEST GIVING

This year we are raising funds for Mercy UK, a Christian mental health charity. They run a residential home in Keighley as well as providing a remote access mental wellness course.

They aim to give every believer the tools to experience real freedom from the issues that hold them back and to navigate life's challenges from a place of wellbeing and wholeness. This is achieved through a range of services, tools and resources that facilitate people strengthening relationship with God, with themselves and with others.

More information can be found at: www.mercyuk.org/ and <https://www.premierchristianity.com/interviews/arianna-walker-whatever-the-problem-is-jesus-is-the-answer/4363.article>.



This month:

1 September 2.15pm Opening service in church
Led by MU members

The new programme for the coming year will be available soon.

Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon

ST JOHN'S - MENSTON



Harvest Festival



Giving thanks for God's good gifts
with praise, love and generosity!

**Everyone
Together**

**Sun 4th Oct
10:30 am**

Followed by a
bring and share lunch

Please bring a food
offering to share for
lunch

We are raising funds for
Mercy UK - a local
Christian mental health charity.
Please give generously.

<https://www.mercyuk.org/donate>



Worship this month

6 Sept The Fourteenth Sunday after TRINITY Read-
ings: Exodus 12: 1-14, Matthew 18: 15-20
Reader: Jan Alexander

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist

13 Sept The Fifteenth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Exodus 12: 19-end, Matthew 18: 21-35
Reader: Peter Wilbraham

9.30am Zest with Communion
11.00am Parish Eucharist
3-4.30pm YOUTH' @ St Johns

20 Sept The Sixteenth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Exodus 16: 2-15, Matthew 20: 1-16
Reader: Jenny Steele

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist

27 Sept The Seventeenth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Exodus 17: 1-7, Matthew 21: 23-32
Reader: Ros Wilkinson

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist
4.00pm Healing & Wholeness with Laying on of Hands

4 Oct The 18th after TRINITY - HARVEST
Readings: Exodus 20: 1-4,7-9,12-20, Matthew 21: 33-end
Reader: David Mercer

9.30am Zest
10.30am Everyone Together

MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

9.30am Thursdays: September 3 / 10 / 17 / 24 ; October 1.

A **NEW** SERVICE
OF THE WORD
WITH PRAYERS FOR
**WHOLENESS AND
HEALING**
AND
LAYING ON OF HANDS



**4PM ON LAST SUNDAY
OF EVERY MONTH
FROM SEPTEMBER**

Zest @ Kirkland's
Harvest Celebration ~ CREATION.
2pm Saturday 3 October

The 25th Anniversary of 9/11

25 years ago, on 11 September 2001, the terrorist attacks on America took place.

Al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four planes and crashed them into the World Trade Center's Twin Towers in New York, into the Pentagon, and into a field in Pennsylvania (following a passenger revolt – the intended target was Washington DC). 2,973 people were killed.

This year, major national institutions in the US will mark the anniversary of that terrible day. In New York, a good number of Christian churches and interfaith groups are planning special services and memorial events.

This will include hourly musical offerings at St Paul's Chapel in New York City, in honour of the chapel's role as a refuge for the first responders.

Other events include a digital experience at the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, and various events by the New York City Fire Department, who lost 343 members that day, as well as the 400 members who have since died from World Trade Center-related illnesses.

There will also be the iconic reading of the names of those who died, and the annual Tribute in Light installation, held at Ground Zero.

In the UK, the 25th anniversary of 9/11 will be remembered by a Memorial Concert on Friday 11 September at Southwark Cathedral. A special guest performance will present a programme of American and British music reflecting on loss, memory and the human cost of violence.

Parish Pump News Service

SUSTAINABLE CHURCH FLOWERS (SCF)

FIRST NORTHERN CONFERENCE

Friday 25 September ~ Bolton Priory ~ 9.30am - 4.00pm

An opportunity to learn about sustainable church flowers, share ideas and hear from experts led by Shane Connolly MBE, florist by appointment to HM The King and HM the Queen.

The Conference is designed to provide an understanding of how churches can adapt to the recent SCF Motion passed at General Synod earlier this year - ie. how we can adapt to using alternative mechanics to replace floral foam.

The day will look at the theology and science behind Sustainable Church Flowers, demonstrations on techniques and suitable plant material, ideas of what works best and suggestions for sourcing local flowers and foliage.

Interested? Sue Wilbraham, Judith Knaggs and I are attending but the conference is open to anyone who is interested. The day is free but donations of £5 -£10 are encouraged on the day. Bring your own packed lunch. Free parking in the main Bolton Abbey car park will be available on production of a ticket.

For more information and most important to reserve your free ticket, please contact the Parish Office for a booking link.

Jan Alexander

Another Abbeys Quiz

In Questions 1 to 10 alternate letters have been removed from the names of these English abbeys. Can you identify the abbeys?

1. __ O __N __ A __N __
2. __ E __ H __ M.
3. __H __T __ Y
4. __ A __T __ E
5. __I __ V __ U __ X
6. __ E __T __ I __ S __ E __
7. __U __K __A __ T
8. __ E __ K __ S __ U __ Y
9. __ H __ R __ O __N __
10. __ L __S __ O __ B __R __

With thanks to Heather Greig



Answers p19

How passion flowers got their name

This beautiful climbing plant that grows in many of our gardens is not native to the UK, but comes from South America. It was first discovered BY Spanish missionaries working there, centuries ago. Drawings were sent back to Europe, and in 1609 an Italian priest interpreted the flower to represent the crucifixion, otherwise known as the Passion.



He decided that the five petals and five sepals could represent the ten disciples who remained steadfast (Judas and Peter both abandoned Jesus). The corona could be seen as Jesus' crown of thorns. The stigma could be seen as the cross or nails, and the five stamens could be seen as the number of wounds Jesus received.

There are many plants whose names reflects something of Christianity. Plants with faith links include:

Columbine - *Aquilegia vulgaris* - is also known as 'dove flower'.

The dove is a symbol for new creation and baptism and carvings of the flower are often found in cathedrals and churches.

Sorrel - *Rumex acetosa* - was one of the bitter herbs that Hebrew people ate with Passover lamb and so possibly part of the Last Supper.

Wild Pansy - *Viola tricolor* - a member of the violet family, and also known as 'heartsease' and 'Trinity Violets' because they are yellow, white and purple.

Cow Parsley - *Anthriscus sylvestris* - also sometimes known as 'Our Lady's Lace'.

Lady's Smock - *Cardamine pratensis*. In the cloisters of Lincoln Cathedral which is dedicated to Mary there is a garden full of her flowers.

Lords and Ladies - *Arum maculatum* - has also been known as 'Parson in the pulpit' and 'Parson in his smock'.

Parish Pump News Service

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 7:1-10, Matthew 8:5-13

When the Romans invaded Israel, they used soldiers to keep order. For the centurion in Capernaum it was more than just a job...

The centurion had a young servant who was in great pain and dying.



When he heard that Jesus was near, he asked the town leaders to ask Jesus for help.

The leaders told Jesus..



This man deserves your help. He loves our people.

He has even built us a meeting place!



This could have been a tricky situation, for Jews never went into the houses of non-Jews.



But Jesus said..

I will go and heal the boy.



But the centurion knew that, as a Jew, Jesus could not go into the houses of non-Jews so as Jesus got near, he sent some friends to him.



He says he isn't worthy enough for you to come to his house.

But he says he understands authority and knows you have it. You only have to say so and his servant will be healed

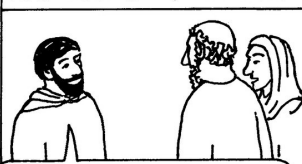


Jesus was amazed!



I have never met anyone in Israel with as much faith.

He said to the friends...



You may go now. What he has believed has happened.

When the friends got to the house they found the servant completely healed!



NOTICE BOARD

The office will be closed
on Thursday 3 September. It
will instead open on
Wednesday 2 September, from
9.30am - 12 noon.

THE NEXT PCC
is on
Wednesday 30
September,
7.30pm.



FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERAL SERVICES *We commend into the hands of Almighty God:*

10 July	Barbara Booker R.I.P.
13 July	Gwyneth Turner R.I.P.
3 August	Paul Ridyard R.I.P.
20 August	Irene Mary Carter R.I.P.

ALTAR FLOWERS

6 September	Marjorie Boddy
13 September	Judith Knaggs
20 September	Jan Alexander
4 October	HARVEST ~ Community arrangements



ABBEYS QUIZ ANSWERS

1) Fountains 2) Hexham 3) Whitby 4) Battle
5) Rievaulx 6) Westminster 7) Buckfast 8) Tewkesbury
9) Sherborne 10) Glastonbury

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September Question of the Month:

Technology has taken over our lives! Or has it? With smartphones, Kindles, satnav, digital television, ultra HD and all manner of gobbledegook, the world can become very confusing very quickly. Yet technology gives us the freedom to travel to new places, buy things unavailable in our local shops and connect us with family members far away. So, my question this month is;

Is technology a good thing?



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- 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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