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First Sunday of the month in the Parish Room 10.15 - 11am. Next craft stall: **Sunday 6 November**.

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.

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	This month	P14	PCC news	
P6	A View from the Pews	P15	Menston MU news	
P7	Prayer Points	p16	Children's page	
P10	Archdeacon's Celebration address	P19	Notices	

Copy for the <u>double</u> December/January magazine is due by Sunday 13 November. Please email copy to BOTH editor and Parish Office (office@stjohnmenston.org.uk) or leave copy with the office.

The Vicarage

Dear Friends

The 6pm service restarted in October, every first and third Sunday evening. This service is an informal one for all members of the congregation, lasting between 45mins and an hour which combines some sung worship, bible teaching and discussion and reflective prayer. There is a supportive atmosphere as we all learn together. We began working through the writings of the prophet Malachi – one of the lesser-known prophets, and the last one in the Old Testament. He looks back over the history of Israel, and also forward to a day when God comes to live among his people.

In the first chapter there were two questions; 'How do we know that God loves us?' and 'Do we really love God?' It turns out that the first question is easy, but the second one is hard. Malachi talks at a time where God was given the leftovers: the mangy sheep or the ones that were dying anyway. This wouldn't have been acceptable to a local governor, never mind the Almighty from whom all blessings flow!

We reflected together about whether God only gets the 'leftovers' of our lives, if indeed God even gets those. It's a challenging thought to consider for yourself. What would it look like if God got the best of everything rather than just the dregs of our time, attention, effort, money, and so on?

I also reflected upon the connections between this and another of our current drives within the church where we make pledges of ways we each, individually, will play our part in caring for our climate. One of our Christian vocations is to partner with God in caring for the place he has given us as a home to enjoy. But again, if we only tinker at the edges of this calling, we will never make a difference. Our pledge scheme is a chance, perhaps, for us to think about returning the best of what God has given us back to God.

Perhaps this might mean for you that you set aside time to pray, rather than just fitting it in when you remember. Perhaps it might mean seriously thinking about investing to make your home or car more climate friendly. Or maybe it might mean leaving the house a little earlier so you can walk instead of drive, and in doing so prioritising God's world over that extra five minutes in bed or in front of the TV.

These are only ideas, but the challenge remains: in this area of life, as in all the others, what would it look like to give God our best, rather than our dregs? How would this change the way we live?

I pray for you as you reflect and consider.

Steve

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERAL SERVICES We commend into the hands of Almighty God:

21 October Jane Ann Smith

A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

Four years ago, I was having dinner with friends. Andrew was among them and the discussion turned to faith. He invited me to church on the understanding that I was under no obligation to keep coming if it wasn't for me.

About three years ago, I started writing these articles for the magazine. My church going has continued, I am on the readers' list and I have joined the coffee rota (well, was press ganged but that's a whole different article!). I was also asked by David if I would help as a deputy warden. It means an early start some Sundays, but I also get to meet the congregation at Zest whom I didn't know before taking on the role. There is, however, a little niggle in my mind. I sit at the back of the church during communion and enjoy watching the sharing of the ritual meal. I do wonder whether not taking communion leaves me a little outside the church family – a sort of 90% Christian.

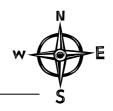
I was baptised as a Catholic and as a mark of respect for my father I didn't want to convert fully to the Church of England lest I upset him. This past summer I was able to visit him and his wife in Sussex and we had a conversation. He expressed his happiness that I had found a path for my faith and so a chat with Steve ensued resulting in the fact that I am going to be confirmed at the end of November!

Of course, this does mean that I have spent the last couple of months thinking about the manifestation of my faith. Am I doing this solely to take part more fully in the service? Is the reason that there are other roles in the community that interest me but that require confirmation or the receipt of communion?

If I am brutally honest the answer to both those questions is a partial 'yes'. It is more than that, though. My understanding of faith has led me to a belief that it is both an intimately personal and a joyously shared experience. To appreciate it fully we must be prepared to stand up and be counted.

Taking part in the confirmation process does just that. It confirms, to me, to you, to God, that this is a life I want to live and to live well. I hope you will join me and pray for me in this confirmation and that the service that day will help you all to think about your own faith anew.

Prayer Points



As well as being the season of Remembrance, this month includes dates this year when we need to enfold other spheres of society in our prayers.

14 November ~ Remembrance Sunday

Father, we remember those who suffered in past wars, may they inspire our service to the living today; and those who are dying today move us to build a better tomorrow.

18 November ~ Children in Need

Loving God, help us to be generous and kind. Help us to be creative and loving so that Children in Need are helped today and every day.

26 November ~ MU Global Day of Action

One in three women worldwide experience domestic or sexual abuse. The Mothers' Union believe this is unacceptable and are working alongside communities to support those who are affected by it.

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male or female for you are all one in Jesus Christ.

Lord of Heaven and earth, we pray for all who follow Christ's example, treating all with equality and respect. We pray for a better world where justice and peace may flourish.

With thanks to Kathy Roberts for this month's Prayer Points

The Eco Church Group

How are you doing with your Eco church pledges? Many thanks to those of you who have signed up. Pledges range from walking more; shopping locally or at charity shops for all Christmas presents this year; eating more veggie food; committing to pray; and writing to the MP. It would be great to have more people on board - pledge cards are available at the back of church.

We have been promised some pots for our veg growing and are planning to plant an apple tree once permission has been given.

For more information on Eco Church see Sally, Matthew, Catherine and Marilyn or make contact via the Parish Office or website.

Climate Action Menston

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 16 November 7.30 at Kirklands.** There will be the chance to see our recently published, 'Let's get walking' leaflet that is being distributed to new homes in the village to encourage more people to walk locally. There will be updates on other topics and we will be brainstorming how to 'green' Kirklands.

Do come along! For more information see Marilyn or contact via https://climateactionmenston.org.uk/

2025 Menston Heritage Group

Interested in the history of Menston village? If so, come along to the next meeting of this newly formed group that are planning the village's contribution to 2025 Bradford City of Culture.

We are hoping to create a trial that makes use of QR codes. Ideas range from exploring artists from the village, learning more

about the Lassie and Sooty connections as well as the textile industrial heritage, the Romans and the coming of the railway. So something for everyone.

Next meeting on **Monday 7 November 7pm at Kirklands**. For more information, contact Marilyn or via the Parish Office.

WW2 Digital Archive

Some of you will remember that Joyce Simpson ran a WW1 archive collection day some years ago in conjunction with the University of Oxford. They now want to digitise WW2 memories/ objects etc. Someone is needed to organise the event - could that be you? There are people willing to help. If you are interested, please contact Marilyn or the Parish Office.



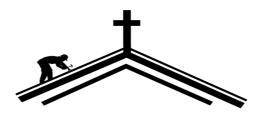
The Archdeacon's address at the Service to Celebrate the completion of the Roof Project Sunday 25 September 2022

First of all, well done. It's a great achievement to get the funds raised for the roof and the work done. So, well done, everyone who has been involved.

Our reading is the vicar's idea of a bit of a joke! There are quite a few roofs mentioned in the Bible. Where else could we have gone? David looking down from his palace roof on Bathsheba bathing on her roof; Rahab hiding spies on her roof in Jericho; Nebuchadnezzar walking on his roof in Babylon, boasting of his power before God brought him down to size; Samson bringing the roof down of the Philistine temple. But we have the one that got trashed!

Of course, all of these were flat roofs, on which people walked, or sat, or bathed. They were roofs for a dry land, that doesn't get the amount of rain we get here in Yorkshire. They are also places where different stories unfolded. One of the interesting things about stories is the details that get left in, and the details that get left out. So, let's look at our story in *Mark 2:1-12*.

First, let's note that actually it looks like it was Jesus' own roof that got trashed. Mark tells us that Jesus was 'at home' in Capernaum, so Jesus wasn't party to someone else's house being wrecked. Secondly, the roof got in the way. In the story, the house was crowded, and the paralysed man's friends wanted to get him to Jesus. They couldn't take a stretcher through the crowd. A small child might wriggle between the people, but 4 strong men and a stretcher can't. So they went upstairs onto the flat roof and made a hole. There's no detail on what they used to make the hole, or how it was fixed afterwards, or who paid for it (perhaps it was Jesus, he would have known what to do). All of which is the kind of detail readily available for St John's church



roof: who was the architect, who were the builders, the maker of the finial, who gave grants and how else it was paid for.

There is detail about needing to make a hole in the roof. The roof got in the way, so they dealt with it. And to some degree, the roof has got in the way here at St John's. It's done very well to last as long as it has – over 150 years – but the need to fix it has been getting in the way. Those of you on the PCC, what will you talk about now you don't have to talk about fixing the roof? What will you look to raise money for now that the roof is done (apart from the rest of the money that you need to pay the remaining bill)?

What else is in the story – and why is it in the Bible? It's about the paralysed man's encounter with Jesus, about his healing, the conversation about sins being forgiven, and people being amazed at Jesus so they glorify God. It's what takes place beneath the roof that's important.

And that's the case here. It's wonderful to have a good roof again on St John's church. Again, well done, everyone. But it's what takes place underneath the roof that really matters. That people can meet with Jesus, particularly in worship. That people can find healing – physical, mental, emotional and spiritual healing. That people can discover about finding forgiveness. And that people are amazed at what God does, and glorify him. That's the detail that you all, not least the PCC, need to turn to now as you continue to write the story of the kingdom of God in Menston.

So, to conclude, well done on the journey so far. Let's work and pray for all that God will now do underneath this roof.

Ven Dr Andy Jolley, Archdeacon of Bradford.

Worship this month

6 Nov	The Third Sunday before ADVENT Readings: 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-end; Luke 20: 27-38 <i>Reader: Dorothy Slater</i>			
9.30am 11.00am 6.00pm 7-8pm	Zest Parish Eucharist 6pm Service ~ Malachi 3 The Den			
13 Nov	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY			
9.30am <u>10.45am</u> 7-8pm	Zest Joint service at Kirklands The Den			
20 Nov	CHRIST the KING Readings: Colossians 1: 11-20; Luke 23: 33-43 <i>Reader: Jan Alexander</i>			
9.30am	Zest			
11.00am	Parish Eucharist			
6.00pm	6pm Service ~ Malachi 4			
7-8pm	The Den			
27 Nov	ADVENT SUNDAY			
	Readings: Romans 13: 11-end; Matthew 24: 36-44 <i>Reader: Peter Wilbraham</i>			
9.30am	Zest			
11.00am	Parish Eucharist and Confirmation			
6.30pm	Ilkley All Saints ~ 'Release'			
MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION				

9.30am Thursdays: 3 / 10 / 17 / 24 November

- 4 Dec The Second Sunday of ADVENT Readings: Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12 *Reader: Jane Pratt*
- 9.30am Zest
- 11.00am Parish Eucharist
- 6.00pm 6pm Service
- 7-8pm The Den



WORSHIP NOTES

REMEMBRANCE DAY ~ 11 NOVEMBER

There will be a short service at Kirklands War Memorial on Friday 11 November beginning just before 11am.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ~ 13 NOVEMBER



Once again, Menston churches are joining with Menston Parish

Council to mark Remembrance Sunday. The service will take place *outside Kirklands* in front of the War Memorial and begins at <u>10.45am.</u> It is a traditional Remembrance Day service and will include the reading of names of the fallen, sounding of the Last Post, two minutes silence and laying of wreaths. Please encourage friends and neighbours to attend this special village event.

CHANGES TO SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES

- **The 6pm Service** will take place on 1st and 3rd Sundays each month - *see page 4*
- The Den runs every week from 7-8pm except for the 4th Sunday of the month when it will join with '*Release*' at All Saints Ilkley from 6.30-8.15pm. Please talk to Steve if you have transport issues.

SEPTEMBER PCC Notes

This was the first 'in person' PCC meeting for about 2 years! We have been prevented from physical contact first by the pandemic and more recently by the roof project. Many of us had been present at the special service of thanksgiving for the completion of the project the day before (*see pages 8/9*).

Continuing in 'thanksgiving mode' Steve opened the meeting by asking us in small groups to write down something we should be thankful for against letters A to Z - and there were plenty of suggestions! Now we know why there is a **x**ylophone in the toy box!

We moved on to a summary sheet of the Roof Project prepared and explained by Colin Alexander, our treasurer.

- The Final Certificate has been signed off and the grand total cost was £k214 with an additional £k5.8 which will be retained for a year.
- The sources of funding for the project were also listed and came to £k196.7. This

includes £k16.5 from 5 grant making trusts but the majority of the giving was from the congregation and the community.

- We expressed our gratitude to all who contributed.
- The difference of £k17.2 has been funded from the PCC General Reserve by suspending 3 of our monthly payments towards the Diocesan Share (£k6 per month). It is quite remarkable that when we started the project the estimated cost was £k142!

The project team, consisting of the Architect, the Wardens, the Vicar and Treasurer have done an amazing job to bring the project to a successful conclusion and we all owe them our thanks.

The Roofing Contractor, Pickles Roofing of Burley, Leeds also deserves our thanks for an excellent and professional job worthy of recommendation if any of our readers are looking for a roofer! What's more, it looks amazing too!

The meeting closed with prayer.

Roger Banister



This month:

1 November

2.15 pm Visit and talk by Revd Andrew Howorth (Non-members welcome)

At our last meeting on 4 October, we welcomed a small delegation of members from our new link branch of Upper Cumberworth, near Holmfirth, to have lunch with us at The Wetherby Whaler. They had a very stressful journey over on the M62 due to a major incident, but managed to make it in time for our booking, which was a big relief.

Following the meal, when we got to know each other, they appreciated looking around St John's, and enjoyed a short rendition on the organ by our church organist! We were very proud of our church with its new roof and views from the entrance, and it was looking most welcoming inside.

We had a very good link for many years with Lothersdale branch, now closed, and saw each other twice a year, but it remains to be seen whether we will be able to do the same with this new link, in view of the distance involved and possible difficulties with travel arrangements.

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth 11 May she rest in peace and rise in glory

Her Majesty was Patron of the Mothers' Union for many decades, and after her death our Worldwide and Diocesan Presidents issued messages to members, expressing their thoughts on this very sad event, as shown in the following short extract:-

We give thanks to God for Queen Elizabeth being our Patron, for blessing her with special gifts for a life humbly dedicated to public service, her strong faith as she weathered many storms; her commitment and devotion to family life; and her great concern for communities and all people.

Her guidance and support of Mothers' Union over the decades has enabled us to achieve so much in impacting communities and touching lives. During times of ongoing war and turmoil around the world, she reminded us of the healing power of forgiveness, peace and reconciliation. This inspired us and encouraged us to work for harmony and good relationships among all people in our communities.

Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon



ALL IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER...

125 years ago, on 15 November 1897 Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan, British politician was born. He was the Minister of Health 1945-51 who led the establishment of the National Health Service.

80 years ago, on 5 November 1942 the WW2 Second Battle of El-Alamein ended. British troops led by Generals Alexander and Montgomery defeated Rommel's German forces in Egypt. On 10 November, Winston Churchill announced: 'This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.'

70 years ago, on 1 November 1952 the USA carried out the first successful detonation of a hydrogen bomb, in a test on the Pacific island of Elugelab, Marshall Islands. The island was completely destroyed and no longer exists.

60 years ago, on 20 November 1962 the Cuban Missile crisis ended and US President John F Kennedy lifted the military blockade of Cuba.

30 years ago, on 20 November 1992 the Windsor Castle fire broke out in a private chapel and spread to a large part of the building. Damage was extensive and took five years to repair, at a cost of £40 million. Buckingham Palace was opened to the public for the first time to help raise the money.

And on a happier note . . .

30 years ago, on 11 November 1992 the Church of England voted to allow women to become priests. The first women were ordained in March 1994.

Stir up Sunday ~ 20 November 2022

Stir-up Sunday is an informal term in Anglican churches for the last Sunday before the season of Advent begins. It is a centuries-old annual tradition where home-cooks spend the last Sunday before Advent 'stirring up' their Christmas pudding.



However, the day does not actually get its name from 'stirring the pudding': but from the Book of Common Prayer. The Collect of the Day for the last Sunday before Advent begins, 'Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people'. Since Victorian times it has become associated with the rather lovely family custom of preparing for Christmas together by making the Christmas pudding.

Sadly, the tradition of Stir-Up Sunday is dying out, as nowadays most Christmas puddings are shop-bought. If however you do decide to take part, the date will be **20 November**. so put on your apron and gather family or friends to make a Christmas pudding. It's the day when wishes are said to come true, so get stirring!



NOTICE BOARD

THANK YOU

Many thanks to friends and neighbours for all the cards, letters and support we received on Joe's recent sudden death. A special thank you also to Andrew for conducting the funeral service so beautifully. *Ann, Peter and Kate Dixon*

ANNUAL LEAF

CLEARANCE There is a churchyard leaf sweep session set for *Saturday 19 November from 9.30 am onwards*. If you are able to help for any amount of time it would be greatly appreciate

CHARITY BUTTON VOTE

The winner of our National charity button vote in August and September was Samaritans. Second was Transforming Lives for Good and third Church Action on Poverty.

We are currently voting for the International charity which St John's will support in 2023. Choices are



USPG; Médecins sans Frontières and Christian Aid. Don't forget to vote whenever you are in church.

ALTAR FLOWERS

13 November

Jan Alexander

20 November

Dorothy Slater



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 $\pounds 5$ per evening which helps to cover the costs of floodlighting the church from dusk until 10.30pm.

4-9 October In memory of Bill Evans

Contact the Parish Office to make arrangements: 872433 or office@stjohnmenston.org.uk

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