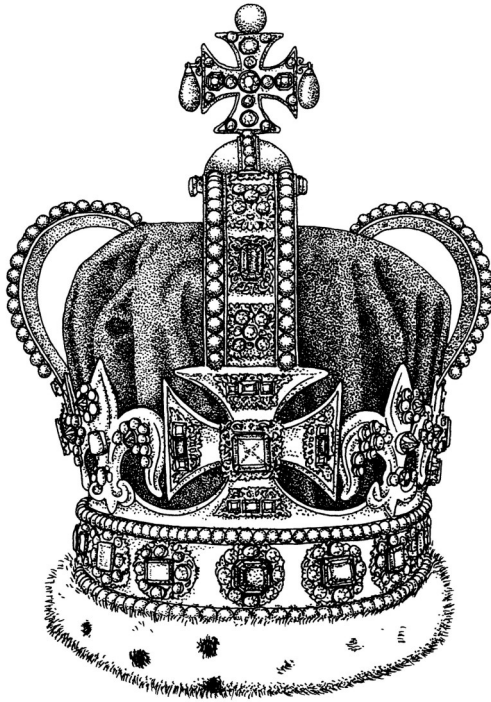


2023

MENSTON  
PARISH CHURCH  
St John the Divine

M  
A  
Y



*King Charles III*  
*Coronation 6 May*

£1



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

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

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

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**Andrew Lindsay BSc(Hons)**

**Phone 01943 872716**

**Email [info@thefootpeople.co.uk](mailto:info@thefootpeople.co.uk)**

**Website [www.thefootpeople.co.uk](http://www.thefootpeople.co.uk)**

# St John's needs you

- ◆ *Andrew is still looking for people to help with **organising fund-raising events**. Meetings probably once a month and no long-term commitment! He promises that they will be **FUN**. Can you help to turn silly ideas into fun events bringing the church family together and raising much needed funds for St John's?*
- ◆ **Calling all Crafters:** First Sunday of the month in the Parish Room 10.15 - 11am. Can you knit, paint, stitch, bake or create something we can sell on the stall? The more the merrier! Please help if you can and give your items to Angela St John, Sue Lee or Andrew. Proceeds to church funds. **Next craft stall: Sunday 7 May.**
- ◆ *We are looking for someone to take on the job of **Magazine Distributor**. It essentially involves one or two people, with a vehicle, about 2 hours once a month, ten times a year delivering bundles of magazines to the deliverers. A detailed job specification is available. Please have a word with Charmian Thomas- 873865 or the Editor.*

## This month

P6	A View from the Pews	P14	PCC news
P7	Prayer Points	P15	Menston MU news
P8	Eco Church News	p16	Bible Bites

Copy for the **JUNE** magazine is due by **Sunday 14 May**. 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.

### Dear Friends

The importance of good theology was recently brought home to me in a new way. Without going into details, someone came to talk to me about heaven and what it would be like as they could not bear to imagine heaven without the ability to recognise and be with someone else. They're not the only person to ask about it – a bunch of questions were put in our question box about similar issues. But it brought home to me that theology isn't just about theory, but instead it's of vital importance for the very deepest things we think about and worry about.

This is why the question box at the back of church is so important and why I spend time trying to respond to things in it.

Good theology makes such a difference to the way we live now, to how we view our Christian hope, to how we see fundamental things like 'sin', for example, that has become so difficult to translate nowadays, Perhaps most of all, theology makes a difference to how we see God.

Because our faith isn't about rules and propositions, but is instead about a living relationship with God himself, we explore that relationship. Finding out about someone from a distance is certainly not a substitute for meeting someone, but sitting by a fireside and listening to someone's stories, their dreams and the way they see the world is a way we all grow in relationship with others.

Reading our Bible, and thinking about the writings within it, is a great way of knowing God better and listening in at

God's fireside. When we pray, we aren't praying to a stranger, therefore, but are settling down to that fireside, sharing our lives and listening to God in return.

All this is theology: The stuff that stops us living in fear of not being good enough because we learn to trust in Jesus for our salvation. The stuff that helps us as we ask the question, who am I, even as we feel our faculties begin to slip from our grasp. The stuff that responds to the overwhelming sense of awe that something essential has happened as we celebrate the birth of a new life. The stuff that relates our own hopes and dreams for the future to our sense of calling from God in a world where we owe everything to our creator. All this is theology. And good theology – prayerful reflection upon God described for us in our Bibles – is as necessary now as it's ever been.

So, ask your questions about faith, explore in discussion with others, spend time with God, read your Bibles, exercise gratitude for all that God has given you. And in doing so, don't just learn about God, but spend time with God at his fireside swapping tales, hopes and dreams together as you learn to trust God more.

*Steve*

## FROM THE REGISTERS

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

11 April Margaret Bailey R.I.P  
19 April Shirley Dracup R.I.P

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

This May sees two extraordinary events that in many ways illustrate who we are as a people, a nation and as members of a global community. If you read on you will see how I attempt to link the Coronation of King Charles III with the Eurovision Song Contest!

Let's get the prosaic out of the way first. Liverpool plays host to the Eurovision this year as Ukraine is unable to do so in light of the continuing conflict in that country. It is wonderful that the global community has pulled together to ensure that an event that brings joy to millions is not ruined by the callous acts of violence perpetrated by Putin's forces. I remember well the immense and raucous support shown to the Bosnian entries of the mid-1990s as brutality and violence laid waste to that land. Whatever one thinks of the Eurovision Song Contest, it remains an extraordinary example of international togetherness and shared experience.

Togetherness is also at the heart of the Coronation. The death of Her late Majesty and the succession of King Charles has led to a reigniting of the debate about the purpose of monarchy and the scale on which it is seen in the UK. Some will say now is the time to update the institution or even

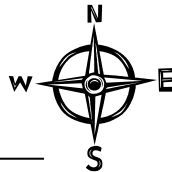
abolish the idea of a hereditary head of state. Others argue that a monarch provides identity and an apolitical focal point for the nation. Both arguments have merit, but it is unlikely that one will trump the other and we will remain in a status quo.

The coronation provides a similar opportunity to the four jubilees of Queen Elizabeth II. It gives people a chance to show off who we are as a nation and how we can be confident that, to quote the late Jo Cox MP 'we have more in common than that which divides us.'

The religious and sacred elements of the ceremony place faith as an integral part of our national identity. The King has suggested in the past that he would wish to be seen as 'defender of faiths' in a nod to the diverse and inclusive society for which so many strive.

It is in our diversity as a people and inclusivity of others that we can have real strength. The Eurovision highlights the latter and the Coronation embeds the former. May 2023 could well be the month in which we begin to forget the divisions of the past few years and sow seeds that will forge a stronger United Kingdom in confident symbiosis with Europe for years to come.

# Prayer Points



As we celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, let us pray for him, his family and ourselves, as he formally undertakes his role as Christian ambassador for all of our diverse and multicultural country and commonwealth.

God be in my head and in my understanding,  
God be in my eyes and in my looking,  
God be in my mouth and in my speaking,  
God be in my heart and in my thinking,  
God be at my end and at my departing.

*(From the Book of Hours)*

This month we remember Christ's ascension into heaven,  
and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Lord God, we thank you for calling us into the company  
of those who trust in Christ and seek to obey His will.  
May your Holy Spirit guide and strengthen us in mission,  
and service to your world for we are strangers no longer,  
but pilgrims together on the way to your kingdom.

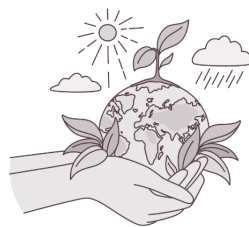
## **A prayer of St Columba**

My dearest lord  
Be Thou a bright flame before me  
Be Thou a guiding star above me  
Be Thou a smooth path beneath me  
Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me  
Today and evermore.

*With thanks to Sallie Finch for this month's Prayer Points*

## Eco Church Group

We have had a busy few weeks! The Eco quiz held in March brought out some competitive tendencies with five teams showing off their skills in identifying flowers, bird calls and climate themes in musicals! Using duplo bricks to explore the carbon footprint of households in Menston proved an interesting challenge - Menston comes in at 21 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, higher than the GB average of 16, Bradford 15! Not a great accolade. To reduce the carbon footprint of the evening, the participants enjoyed a veggie meal plus cake with plenty of food for thought!



For those who want to know, the carbon footprint breaks down as follows:

Goods/services 7.8	Housing = 4.9	
Food = 4.7	Travel = 4.1	Waste = less than 1.

In April, 11 of us visited the Recycling and Energy Recovery Centre in East Leeds where domestic rubbish (black bins) is incinerated to produce electricity for the grid and the hot water by product is used to heat homes - the Leeds PIPES scheme. We all dressed up in high vis/ goggles/ gloves etc and peered into the furnace which burns the rubbish at 850 degrees. The furnace is monitored 24/7 as are the emissions from the chimney which are very limited. The ash produced from the furnace is used for road building. It was really interesting and the iconic building has a green wall on its south side with over 111,000 plants and is home to kestrels!

On Easter Saturday, an all age event was held in the churchyard to kickstart our community vegetable growing project with the children sowing carrot, beetroot, spring onions, lettuce seeds and potatoes in pots kindly donated by members of the congregation. We have set up a watering rota and are hoping for great things. An Easter Garden was also created plus bee/bug hotels for the churchyard.

We are planning a tree trail for the churchyard and hope to get more people involved in our green initiatives over the next few months.

*Eco church team: Marilyn, Sally, Catherine, Jeanne-Claire, Matthew*



# **St JOHN'S MISSION GIVING IN 2023**

## **Local Charity ~ Wheatfields Hospice**

Wheatfields Hospice is based in Headingley, Leeds. It provides specialist care for people across Leeds who are terminally ill (also helping their friends and families.)

The expert team at Wheatfields includes doctors, specialist Sue Ryder nurses, nursing assistants, physiotherapists, occupational and complementary therapists and a family support team. They are dedicated to providing specialist medical care for managing pain and other symptoms with additional emotional, practical and spiritual support.

A personalised care plan is prepared for each patient, combining their wishes with the advice of the experts in order to meet their needs. The aim is to help the patients to live the best life they can whilst coping with terminal illness.

The care is provided either in the hospice itself or patients can be cared for in their own homes, for as long as possible, helping them to manage their medication and providing emotional support to them and their carers.

The hospice also provides a bereavement support group which meets once a month, providing a listening ear for any of their patients or family members who need someone to talk to. This helps them to deal with situations or feelings that can be hard to cope with alone eg. worries about the future, grief and loss. There is also the New Horizons Cafe which provides support to families with children, dealing with the loss of partners and the daily struggle of becoming a single parent.

Wheatfields is a charity and all this care is free. However, it costs £3.8m per year to provide it - equating to £10,500 per day. It is dependent on charitable giving, legacies and the tireless fundraising of their supporters. Our gift helps in a very small way towards this.

*The Outreach Team*

## Did you know 10 Facts about King Charles III?

1. He was born at 9.14pm on 14 November 1948, to Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, at Buckingham Palace in London.
2. He has been heir-apparent to the throne since the age of three.
3. He is the first monarch in British history to have earned a university degree. From 1967 to 1970 he studied history at Cambridge University.
4. He can speak Welsh. He spent two months learning the language in 1969, as he prepared to become the Prince of Wales. He still speaks it today.
5. He is a qualified pilot and diver. While serving in the military in the 1970s, he trained as a jet and helicopter pilot and became a confident diver.
6. He is a keen watercolour painter, a published author, and a music lover, who played the cello at Cambridge. He has done some TV: making a guest appearance on Coronation Street, and presenting the BBC weather forecast.
7. As Prince of Wales, he founded nearly 20 charities. Together, they raise £140 million each year for good causes. He is passionate about the environment, speaking out against plastic pollution as early as 1970. He has planted many trees during royal engagements.
8. Aged 73, King Charles III is the oldest monarch ever to be crowned in British history. He became King on 8 September 2022, after the death of his mother, the Queen, in Balmoral.
9. As head of the Commonwealth, King Charles III is monarch of each of the 14 Commonwealth realms: Antigua & Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. As King, he's also the only person in the UK who can travel abroad in the Commonwealth without a passport and drive without a licence.
10. King Charles III has two children, Princes William and Harry, and five grandchildren. Prince William is next in line to become King and was named the Prince of Wales in 2022.

*Parish Pump News Service*

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CELEBRATE THE



# *King's Coronation*

WITH THE

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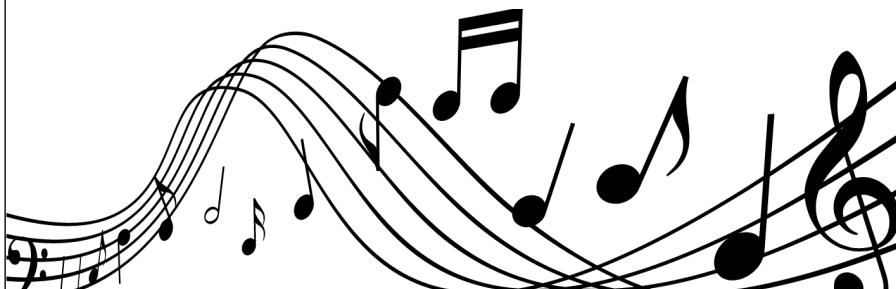
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# Worship this month

## **7 May The Fifth Sunday of EASTER**

**Readings: Acts 7: 55-end; John 14: 1-14**

**Reader: Adele Maddy**

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm 6pm Service

7-8pm The Den

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## **14 May The Sixth Sunday of EASTER**

**Readings: Acts 17: 22-31; John 14: 15-21**

**Reader: Colin Alexander**

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

7-8pm The Den

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## **21 May The Seventh Sunday of EASTER**

**Readings: Acts 1: 6-14; John 17: 1-11**

**Reader: Pat Machin**

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm 6pm Service

7-8pm The Den

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## **28 May PENTECOST**

**Readings: Acts 2: 1-21; John 20: 19-23**

**Reader: David Mercer**

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm The Den @ 'Release' ~ Ilkley All Saints

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## 4 June TRINITY SUNDAY

**Readings: 2 Corinthians 13: 11-end; Matthew 28: 16-end**  
**Reader: Geoff Druett**

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

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## MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*9.30am Thursdays: 4 / 11 / 18 Ascension Day / 25 / 1 June*

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### **Bishop of Durham responds to immigration proposals**

The Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, Church of England spokesman on refugees, has recently issued the following response to the Home Secretary's statement on the Illegal Migration Bill.

He said: 'No one wants to see people risking their lives to reach safety, but we must ask is this Bill the right response - one that is built on compassion, justice and moral leadership?

'It's likely to push thousands of people, including children, into a prolonged legal limbo and imprisonment, and does nothing to support timely and effective consideration of asylum requests.

'It would label all those crossing the Channel illegal entrants and

therefore people to whom we do not owe a responsibility and would criminalise the act of claiming asylum - without acknowledging that many are highly vulnerable people escaping persecution and war, who have been left with no safe routes.

'The Home Secretary acknowledges the growing global refugee crisis, which we can't solve on our own, but it is disappointing that the Government has decided to not take on a greater role in leading the world to equitably support those forced to flee their home.

'We must not abdicate our legal and moral responsibility to some of the world's most vulnerable by simply treating asylum seekers as a group not to be welcomed or integrated, but detained and returned. We must do and be better.'

*Parish Pump News Service*

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## PCC Notes

PCC met via zoom on 27 March.

Iain and Colin presented the figures for the churches income and outgoings so far this year. We continue to deal with the financial challenges posed by cost of living issues and post Covid recovery. Colin has informed the diocese that it is unlikely that we will be able to pay the full parish share this year, but regular monthly payments are being paid at a slightly reduced rate.

A new eco-tank printer has been purchased for the office at a cost of £250 to replace the printer which broke.

Andrew is still looking for volunteers to form a group to coordinate fundraising events over the coming year.

Some fundraising is taking place, the recent Eco Quiz Social raised £80. The Fairfax singers will present a Coronation Concert in May and tickets are on sale now.

The lantern holder above the entrance to the church porch is being repaired and will be reinstated as soon as possible. The gates at the bottom of the sloping pathway to church are in a poor state. Hilary is arranging for the gates to be removed.

Marilyn confirmed that she has the role of Parish Environmental Officer. The Eco group have an event planned on Easter Saturday which will include planting vegetables in the pots at the side of the Parish Room.

Marilyn advised that the Deanery Synod had met and discussed the Barnabas Project. This is a new initiative to encourage churches to work together, share ideas and resources and support the development of leadership. The three yearly elections for Deanery Synod are coming up this year. Anyone interested in standing for election is welcome to talk to Marilyn or Sally who are the churches current reps to find out what is involved.

The PCC split into groups to discuss our post roof priorities. This month we focussed on Worship. Comments and thoughts were shared on the wide range of services and worship styles we have on offer. Ideas were offered on ways to communicate the work that goes on in church across each service and group to the whole church family.

We finished the meeting with prayer.

*Sally Smith*



**This month:**

Tuesday 2 May 1.00pm Project Lunch in the Parish Room\*

Tuesday 16 May 2.15pm Social Afternoon in the Parish Room  
*(this time discussing various issues concerning MU's  
commitment to its support of marriage and family life)*

\*The Project Lunch (price £7) is our main fund-raiser each year to support our MU charities, and this year, being so near to the King's Coronation on 6 May, we plan to have a joyful event with a Coronation theme! There will be bunting and Union Jacks and wine for a toast, a raffle and sales/bring and buy table. So please come prepared to help swell our funds.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Annual Gathering 2023**

Each year the MU holds an annual gathering for members in different locations within the UK. Last year Belfast welcomed 500 members, and this year there will be a ONE DAY Annual Gathering in York on Friday 22 September. The MU Worldwide President, Sheran Harper will be present, and the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell. Any members wishing to book tickets should visit [www.mothersunion.org/annual-gathering-2023](http://www.mothersunion.org/annual-gathering-2023) for details of the programme and evensong. The theme is *Transformation in Action!*

As a movement, the MU is going through a challenging time and needs to increase its membership and, as a charity, secure more income to support it. The gathering is an opportunity for members to get together, get re-inspired and to learn from each other about how we can make that difference in our communities.

*Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon*

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Genesis ch. 25:19-33, 27:1-42

Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons - Esau ('Hairy') and Jacob ('grasper'). When the boys were born, God said...

Esau is older but Jacob will be more important.



The boys grew up...

Esau liked to go out to hunt, but Jacob stayed at home.



When Isaac was old and blind he told Esau



I want to give you my special blessing; first catch me some food.

But Rebekah went to find Jacob



You could have that blessing

But Esau is hairy and I am not.



Use goat skin to cover your arms and wear Esau's clothes



Here is your food, Father



Are you really Esau? Come nearer.

Jacob was tricked by the goat skin and Esau's clothes.



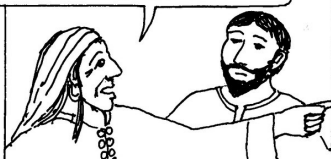
May God bless you richly, my son.

Then Esau returned



I'm sorry, I already blessed your brother

You must run away or Esau will kill you. Go to my brother Laban's home.



Jacob!





## More Flowers with Biblical Connections

### ***CEDAR OF LEBANON - cedrus Libani***

This tree is mentioned several times in the old testament, and I first heard of it when visiting Salisbury Cathedral many years ago. We saw two enormous specimens in the Cloister Courtyard which were planted in 1837 to mark Queen Victoria's accession to the throne. They are still there and can grow up to 100 metres tall.



### ***OLIVE - olea Europaea***

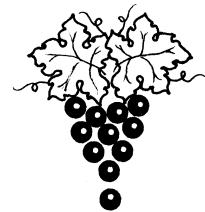
We are all familiar with the many uses of olive oil and the references to the Mount of Olives in the Bible. For centuries new monarchs have been anointed during their coronation. The oil always used is called chrisem oil or myrrh. It is created using olives from the Mount of Olives and the oil is scented with a sweet perfume. It is consecrated in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem before being brought to London for 6 May. According to 1 Kings 1:39 Solomon was anointed by Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet as Handel reminds us in his Coronation Anthem *Zadok the Priest*.



### ***PLANTS in PARABLES***

When Jesus spoke in parables he used plants which grow in the Middle East and so were familiar to the people. Examples are

The *Grape Vine - vitis vinifera* and the *Mustard - brassica juncea*.



*Heather Greig*

# ALTAR FLOWERS

14 May In memory of Iris Nerurkar

21 May Judith Knaggs



## NEW ROTA

The new rota for altar flowers is now in the church porch. Thank you to all who have signed up - a few dates remain.

## EASTER LILIES

Thank you to all those who have donated so very generously towards the cost of the Easter lilies and to Carole, Judith, Sue and Ann who helped to arrange them on Holy Saturday. It was a pleasure to do so and to help St John's celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Day.

*Jan Alexander*

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## News of Revd Canon John Stewart Ward

John was vicar of St John's from 1988 until 1995 when he moved to The Priory Church, Bolton Abbey. Following retirement he moved to Scotland. Sadly, after only a few short years, John became increasingly ill with a form of dementia and eventually moved into Pitlochry Care Home, Perthshire.

Many of us remember John with affection and gratitude and the Pastoral Care Team, amongst others, have kept in contact with him via Christmas and Easter greetings from all at St John's. This year's card prompted a reply from Richard Moore, a long-standing friend of John's who lives nearby. He writes:

'I am writing to thank you for remembering John at Easter. I visited him today (Easter Sunday). I had a lovely visit - we sang 'My song is love unknown' and listened to a Telemann Easter cantata.

Sadly, John is very diminished now but his lovely smile is still there. He is almost permanently slumbering yet amazingly when his ex-curate and his wife from Ireland Wood Parish Church (*pre Menston*) visited a week ago John recognised them and beamed with joy. This was very moving and life-affirming. He gave John a blessing which John seemed to appreciate.

But the good news is that John is not in pain and is settled in his environment. He still responds mainly to hymns and religious music. Thanks to all who knew and cared about him.

God bless.'

*Richard Moore, Killiecrankie, Perthshire.*

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