

2025

MENSTON
PARISH CHURCH
St John the Divine

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Easter Day
20 April

£1

VICAR

Revd Joanna Glenwright 07502 579658
email: vicar@stjohnmenston.org.uk

For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals please contact the Vicar

ASSOCIATE PRIEST

Revd Andrew Howorth 512157
email: associate@stjohnmenston.org.uk

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

872433
Office mobile: 07440 289248
Parish Office, Burley Lane, Menston, Ilkley LS29 6EU
email: office@stjohnmenston.org.uk

Thursday 9.30am - 12 noon.

Messages may be left on the answering machine outside these hours.

Website: www.stjohnmenston.org.uk *Twitter:* @MenstonStJohn

Reader	Mrs Wendy Thornhill, 2 Derry Hill Gardens	876581
Churchwardens	Mrs H Feathers, 31 Station Road, Menston	872548
	Mr D Hall domster64@gmail.com	pm 0774 603 3784
PCC Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>	
PCC Treasurer and Income Treasurer	Mr I Johnson <i>email:</i> treasurer@stjohnmenston.org.uk	07961 266766
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs E Leopold, 32 Newfield Drive, Menston	879809
Magazine Editor	Mrs J Alexander janmalexander@btinternet.com	878355
<i>Advertising</i>	Please contact the Parish Office	872433
Mothers' Union Sec	Mrs A Dixon, 3 Greystone Cottages, Park Rd	874160
Pastoral Support	Mrs J Pratt, York House, Church View Mrs S Lee, 2 Park Way, Menston	876945 875393
Parish Room Booking	Parish Office during Office hours	872433
Parish Notes	Parish Office by 10am Wednesday	872433

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

Where did our Easter Egg come from?

Easter eggs can be traced back to the early Church in Mesopotamia.



Since ancient times, people had been giving each other eggs at pagan Spring festivals, as eggs were a symbol of the new life and rebirth in nature all around them. Then came Jesus and His death and resurrection, which made Easter the ultimate time for Christians to celebrate new life and rebirth. After that, it was only a matter of time before eggs found their way into commemorating Easter.

This seems to have first happened with the very early church in Mesopotamia, where those early Christians began dyeing their eggs after Easter, to celebrate the new birth that Jesus had given to them. The practise of using eggs in Easter celebrations then spread to the Orthodox Churches, and from there to the Western Churches across Europe.



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Copy for the **MAY** magazine is due by **Sunday 13 April**. Please email copy to both editor and Parish Office (office@stjohnmenston.org.uk) or leave copy for typing with the office.

The Vicarage

Friends

I am writing this the day after a historic occasion... Newcastle United have just won their first trophy in 70 years! Regarded as a big club with a huge fan following, it has been a sore point for a long time that such a prestigious club hasn't won anything in recent times.

Football is a funny thing. So many emotions, hopes and dreams projected on to the fate of a ball being hoofed about for 90 mins by 11 men a-side.

The singing is louder and more enthusiastic than any other worship I have ever heard. Full of defiance when the opposition seems to prevail, full of memories of victories past, and songs foretelling the glory to come.

The anger at injustice easily let loose. Hope quickly rekindled. Tears of relief easily flow.

The Church of Football is thriving, it is accessible and meaningful to so many.

It satisfies that yearning to belong, that deep human need to be known and accepted. It offers community where others who share the same faith come together as one.

My father-in-law is 70 this year. He has waited his whole life to see Newcastle win a trophy. My husband 38 years. The last few minutes of the game were nervy when the other team scored one and victory looked less assured. The final whistle went and the emotional release was huge. The jumping, the cheering, the disbelief – we actually won!

Half an hour later, we were emptying the dishwasher, putting the kids to bed, then falling asleep in front of the telly. Because as long hoped for as it was, as hard won as it was, as historic as

it was, this victory didn't actually change anything. Even the players themselves were quickly on to training for the next match and away playing for international teams.

For all the hoping, for all the dreaming, this victory didn't change anything.

As my family and I were gathered around the TV, getting more and more excited about what could possibly be, I said to them... you know this feeling, this feeling that we are about to win, against the odds, hopes about to be made real... that is what the resurrection feels like. Yes! Get in! Euphoria! Its happened. Can you believe it?! Its actually happened. Our side has won! We are on the winning team! Yes! Yes! Yes!

But that is where the similarities with Easter end. Because unlike Newcastle's historic trophy, Jesus' victory did change everything. That's what the church celebrates at Easter and in fact every Sunday. That Jesus overcame death. In doing so he has given us every reason to hope that we will all win in the end and forever if we trust and follow him.

From Sunday 13 April through to Sunday 20 April St John's will be exploring Jesus' last days, who he was, why he did what he did, what happened next and what it means for us today. Join in if you can. If you cannot physically be with us, why not commit to reading and reflecting on this part of the gospel for yourself and praying this Holy Week?

Look at the faith of football fans, have we not got something bigger and better to believe in? Let us commit more of ourselves to the following the One who can lead us to an all-changing and everlasting victory and truly lead us to glory.

He is Risen! Hallelujah! He is Risen indeed!

Jo

A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

It is that time of year again! As the winter fades and Spring takes its first nervous footsteps, we turn our thoughts toward the APCM.

I have spent the past year as a churchwarden and PCC member and it has been an illuminating education. The church – both locally and nationally – might be likened to a swan. On the surface everything seems to run smoothly (apart from the odd computer glitch in a service but I won't dwell.) Underneath there is a network of people who work tirelessly to keep the show on the road and make decisions about the future direction we should take.

At the APCM (Sunday 11 May, 11am) we will have a chance to elect new members to the PCC so this month I would like to show what the PCC does and, hopefully, inspire and encourage those of you who are thinking of putting your names forward to take the plunge.

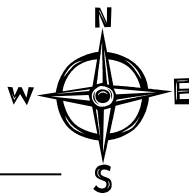
Perhaps the most important responsibility for the PCC is deciding what we do with the money that comes into the church. We need to contribute a share to the diocese and make sure the fabric of the church is cared for, but we also need to think about our mission. We look at what we deliver in terms of worship and how that is likely to play out. We set in place plans for special occasions such as Easter and Christmas. All of this is done via lively but friendly discussion and prayerful thought.

I'll not lie, when I first put my name forward for election to the PCC it was a daunting prospect. However, the PCC was welcoming and encouraging, and I have got to know some lovely people. What is also true is that I have a better understanding of the way a church runs on a daily basis, and I think a better understanding of the rapid paddling that goes on under the surface.

Being on the PCC is also a very good way to build confidence. A lot of us can bumble through life and not feel that we have a contribution to make. Listening to and taking part in the discussions at PCC and having a say in decisions that affect the life of the church in Menston can be empowering and give a fresh new purpose in life.

Ultimately, it is a rewarding and important part of church life. I hope that all of this might lead some of you to consider putting your names forward in the coming weeks.

Prayer Points



Rising to new life.

April, and the glorious new life of Spring is emerging everywhere. We pray for ourselves and for our world that the Lenten period may lead us to new life in you, our God.

We pray that we and our world may give to new life, rejecting prejudice, aggression, hypocrisy, greed and obsessive self interest and all the things that drag us down.

We pray that we and our world may greet with courage and confidence our risen Lord, who suffered rejection, false accusations, violence and ultimately death on the cross with dignity, to rise to new life and demonstrate that ongoing forgiveness and renewal is available for us.

We pray for ourselves and for our world that in Jesus' name we may reject evil to live that risen life of love and compassion for the betterment of each other, our world and all mankind.

Just as I am without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee
O Lamb of God I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve
Because thy promise I believe
O Lamb of God I come.

Just as I am of that free love
The breadth, length, depth and height to prove
Here for a season then above
O Lamb of God I come.

Verses from the hymn by Charlotte Elliott

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

New Electoral Roll

This year a new Electoral Roll will be prepared in April - a process which occurs every 6th year; this means everyone will have to re-apply if you want to be on the new Roll.

It is difficult to make articles about the Electoral Roll interesting so if you want to skip the next bit about who can be on, or why you should be on, at least read the final paragraph about when and how to re-apply . . . please.

Everyone over 16 years, who is baptised and has been a regular 'attender' at services during the past 6 months is eligible to go on the Roll. Being on the Roll entitles you:

- i) to attend and vote at the Annual Church meeting on matters of parochial and general Church interest;
- ii) to express any concerns you may have;
- iii) to vote to elect our PCC members and Deanery representatives;
- iv) to be eligible for PCC membership yourself.

Thus you become an active voting member of the Church of England and a participant in all aspects of Church life. It is important therefore that everyone attending St John's on a regular basis is on the Roll and involved in the decision-making process.

Forms will be available at the back of church on **Sundays 6 / 13 / 20 April** and you are all responsible for completing and returning these forms to me. There will be a box or envelope - marked Electoral Roll on the table also at the back of church, or you can give them to me either after 11am services, or via the Parish Office. This has to be done by **20 April at the latest**.

When it is ready, a copy of the new Roll goes on view for at least 14 days before the **Annual Church Meeting on 11 May**; but no further names can be added at this point; you have to wait until after the APCM if you miss the dead-line. As soon as the new copy goes on view, the old Electoral Roll becomes obsolete. It is during this time any errors are corrected so please check that your names are correct.

There will be reminders in the Parish Notes and at services in church. If you have any queries, do please contact me: ealeo200@hotmail.com

Elizabeth Leopold

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

Sunday 11 May ~ 11am

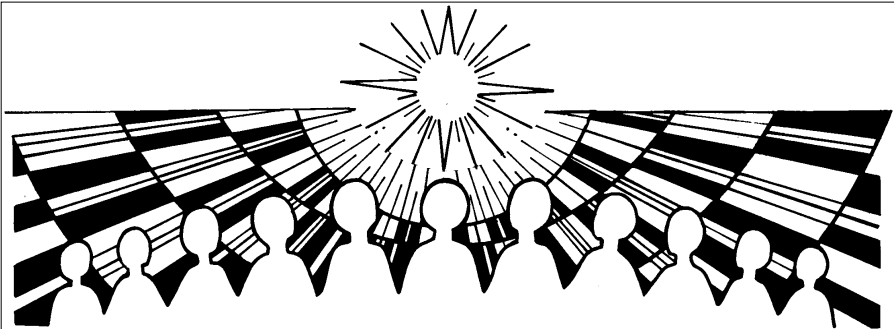
To be held in church within a Service of the Word
with additional seating in the Parish Room.

AGENDA

- Election of 2 Churchwardens
- Election of Deanery Synod members
Automatically members of PCC
- Election of PCC members:
- Treasurer's Report

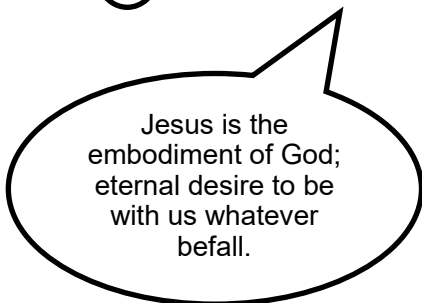
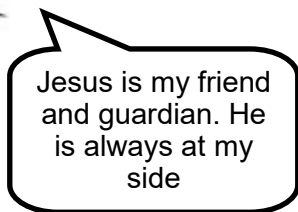
Please think and pray about nominations and whether you
are prepared to stand for any of the vacancies.

*See page 6 for Dominic Hall's excellent article on the
functions of the PCC and why one should consider
standing for election!*



Who is Jesus?

A few Sundays ago, Zest children shared their thoughts. At the 11am service that day, the congregation, which included a Professor of Christian Ethics, were encouraged to add their thoughts.



ST JOHN'S, MENSTON

EASTER

LIVING HOPE



PALM SUNDAY 15TH APRIL

9.30AM - ZEST

Informal & creative worship with retelling of Jesus' last days

11.00AM – HOLY COMMUNION

Traditional Communion service with Palm and Passion readings

TUESDAY 15TH APRIL

7:00PM - STATIONS OF THE CROSS

A quiet time of guided reflection

MAUNDY THURSDAY 17TH APRIL

7:00PM – THE LAST SUPPER AND GETHSEMANE

Holy Communion at Menston Methodist followed by prayer vigil at St John's

GOOD FRIDAY 18TH APRIL

3:00PM – AN HOUR AT THE CROSS

Time and space for contemplation

SATURDAY 19TH APRIL

1:30PM – 3:30PM - ZEST @ KIRKLANDS

Exploring Easter for all the family,
including donkey rides!

SUNDAY 20TH APRIL EASTER DAY

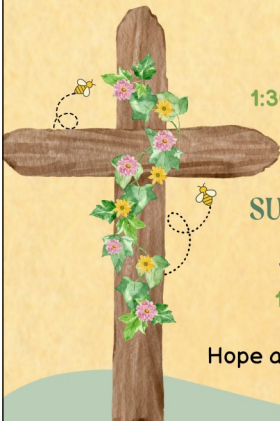
5:40AM – SUNRISE PRAYERS

Watching the sunrise (with a firepit)

10:00AM – EVERYONE TOGETHER

EASTER CELEBRATION

Hope and joy for everyone! With Holy Communion



WWW.STJOHNMENSTON.ORG.UK

Worship this month

6 April The Fifth Sunday of LENT

Readings: Philippians 3: 4b-14; John 12: 1-8

Reader: Adele Maddy

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

13 April PALM SUNDAY

Readings: Luke 19: 28-40; Luke 22 & 23

Reader: Geoff Druett

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

20 April EASTER DAY

Readings: TBA

Reader: Glenys Prince

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist



27 April The Second Sunday of EASTER

Readings: Acts 5: 27-32; John 20: 19-31

Reader: Wendy Thornhill

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

4 May The Third Sunday of EASTER

Readings: Acts 9: 1-6; John 21: 1-19

Reader: Diane Beaumont

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

9.30am *Thursdays: 3 / 10 / 24 / 1 May*

Rejoice!

EASTER WORSHIP

Full details of all services in Holy Week can be found on the previous page.

Something for everyone with some different services.



EASTER LILIES

If you wish to contribute to the lilies which will decorate St John's at Eastertide

donations can be posted through the *Parish Office* letter box or passed to a warden on Sunday mornings. Please put the money in a sealed envelope clearly marked '*for Easter Lilies*'.

We shall be arranging the lilies in church on Saturday 19 April starting at 9.30am. Would you like to be involved? Bring some scissors or secateurs - guidance and support on offer. Thank you.

Jan Alexander

Core!

At our February Core we asked the question Who is Jesus? We read from the Bible passage Mark 8:27-29. In these verses Jesus asks his disciples who other people say he is and who they say he is. The children wrote down their own thought on who Jesus is and added them to a poster. They all knew he was the Son of God and the light of the world, but what does Jesus mean to them? We explored the question during our activity time. Along side our usual games, the children made heart shaped biscuits and decorated letters to spell out Jesus' name.

We also made a time line of Jesus' life. At the end of the time line the children drew pictures of themselves, to remind them that they are part of Jesus' life and he is part of theirs. At the end of the session we ate the delicious biscuits we had made and talked about what we had learned. The children added new thoughts to our poster, we then prayed together. Our poster is displayed at the back of church by the font. Please add your own thoughts on what Jesus means to you, it would be great to share your wisdom with the children.

The Core is a group for children aged 7-11. We meet once a month on a Sunday afternoon in the Parish Room. We are always happy to welcome new children, so if you know anyone who might be interested in joining us please speak to Revd Jo or a member of the children's team.

Sallie Smith

STAY&PLAY

BIG Stay&Play was held in February half term, inviting school aged children and younger and their families to join in the fun! We saw a big increase on our usual numbers and it was wonderful to see so many new faces. In all there were approximately 40 children, and 30 adults.

A big thank you to all the volunteers! We are hoping to run another in the May half term holiday. If you're interested in helping at the next one, or on a weekly basis, please get in touch with Jen or Jo.



THANK YOUs

Thank you to all who have renewed their subscriptions to the magazine for the forthcoming year. The Magazine is delivered free within Menston thanks to a loyal team of deliverers.

The new magazine advertising year begins this month. We thank our advertisers for their ongoing support for St John's. If you know of anyone who may be interested in placing an advert in the magazine

please ask them to contact the Parish Office. Advertising income for the coming year has raised £576.

Magazine income from sales and advertising raised just over £2,000 last year. The 'in-house' printing and the collating teams also help the magazine to run at a profit and contribute to church funds.

My thanks to you all.

Jan Alexander, Editor

ECO CHURCH NEWS

Seed sowing

All are welcome to come along and sow seeds in the planters by the parish room on Saturday 5 April. We will be there from about 9.30am. If you can bring any tools we might need, that would be great.



Eco quiz for all ages

The Eco quiz will take place on Saturday 3 May 4-6pm. We realise this is the early May Bank holiday weekend but we are hoping that you will be around to support this. Food and fun and some quirky questions! Do come along. Tickets on sale in April.

Eco tips for April– Lent Lament

1. For each day of Lent pray for one thing in creation that you care about. For example birds in the garden, your favourite food, your car. Thank God for it, lament if it is being damaged by human action or causing harm, and intercede for wisdom and Christ's renewal.
2. Set aside time each week in Lent to go for a walk (or look out of the window if you are not able) and actively appreciate Christ's creation, remembering that we are wholly dependent on it for our survival.
3. Read the Easter story in one or all of the gospels. Think how you and your church will join with the whole community of creation in celebrating the salvation, renewal and new birth that Jesus' death and resurrection brings to all things.

If you are interested in joining the Eco Group, do get in touch. Our next meeting is on Thursday 3 April at 7.30pm.

Marilyn, Catherine, Sally , Matthew and Jen.



This month:

1 April 2.15pm Preparing for Easter - Parish Room
A series of stories with Revd Andrew Howorth

At our last meeting on Shrove Tuesday, we were invited to the home of Mrs Sallie Finch, to whom we offer our grateful thanks for an enjoyable afternoon. After a short business meeting to discuss arrangements for our summer outing in June, we had a Quiz followed by pancakes and chocolate desserts. A good time was had by all.

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Bradford Area News

Falling membership in the Leeds Diocese is a continuing concern due to an ageing membership. Suggestions for attracting new, younger members are welcomed by our Area Presidents. They are planning to interact more with clergy to generate support for their own MU groups, and are also asking branches to pass on any ideas they have if they have had success in attracting new members.

New Patron

Mary Sumner House have recently announced that the Duchess of Edinburgh has been chosen to replace our late Queen Elizabeth as Patron of the Mothers' Union. We look forward to seeing her at some of our future MU events in London.

Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Lk 22:1-13, Mt 26:14-19, Mk 14:10-16

It was just before Passover, when Jews
celebrate God rescuing them from Egypt.
Jesus and his disciples were in Jerusalem..

The Chief Priests were plotting



How can we get rid of Jesus?
He always has crowds around him.

Jesus' disciple Judas
came to them...



I could help you.

We'd be happy
to pay you



How much?

30 silver coins



30 silver coins happened
to be the same amount
that had to be paid
as compensation to
the owner if a
slave was
killed
Ex.31:32



I'll let you
know when Jesus is alone.

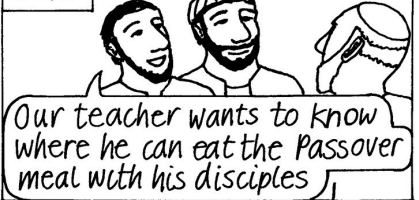
Meanwhile, Peter and John asked Jesus...



Where
do you
want us to prepare
the Passover meal?

Go into
the city
and follow
the man carrying a
water jar to his home

They did, and asked the house
owner



Our teacher wants to know
where he can eat the Passover
meal with his disciples

The room is upstairs
on the roof, ready
to use



Peter and John got
the meal ready



That evening, Jesus and his
12 disciples went to the room
to eat the Passover meal.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Menston Heritage Group

Having received funds from the *Parish Council* for hard and software items and *Shipley Area Committee Culture is Cohesion Fund* to link up with a group in Bradford to do the trail in July, we are almost ready to launch our trail leaflet and catalogue our existing donations.

Further information soon!

Marilyn

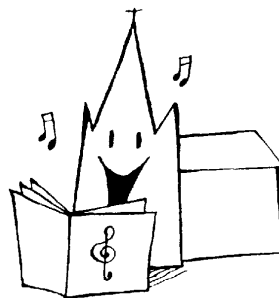


Supported by
Shipley Area Committee



Music in the Air

The next concert will be on Saturday 21 June between 3-5pm in church. Tickets available in May. If you are interested in being part of the St John's singing group, do get in touch. Many thanks, *Marilyn*.



FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERAL SERVICES *We commend into the hands of Almighty God:*
13 March Jeanette Rawcliffe R.I.P

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Some Easter one-liners:

What is the Easter Bunny's favourite kind of music? *Hip hop*

What do you call an Easter Bunny wearing a kilt? *Hopscotch*

What do you call a bunny with fleas? *Bugs Bunny*

What do rabbits say before they eat? *"Lettuce pray."*



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