

2026

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MENSTON
PARISH CHURCH
St John the Divine



£1

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the Parish Office (872433) to arrange delivery.*

SMILE LINES

Those of us who have grandchildren will have their own fund of amusing stories. These may bring a smile to your day.

- ◆ I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colours yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what colour it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, 'Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these, yourself!'
- ◆ When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, 'I'm not sure.' 'Look in your underwear, Grandpa,' he advised, 'mine says I'm 4 to 6.'
- ◆ A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, 'Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today.' The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. 'That's interesting,' she said, 'how do you make babies?' 'It's simple,' replied the girl. 'You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'.'

Parish Pump News Service

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

The Vicarage

Dear Friends

God is good

Jesus is Lord

His Spirit is here.

As we enter what the church calendar calls “Ordinary Time” as Vicar I am conscious that the last half year has been full seasons of reflections and celebration.

November – Remembrance and Christ the King

December – Advent and Christmas

January – Epiphany

February and March – Lent

April – Easter

May – Ascension and Pentecost

So, by June we’ve reached the end of the story. Or have we?

No. Its only just beginning.

Our seasonal cycle takes us through:

acknowledging and remembering our need for God,

celebration and relief that He came to us in Jesus,

acknowledging His awesome love and power in that,

acknowledging and repenting of how we have responded to that grace,

celebrating that Jesus can overcome even our worst choices and fears; and

recognising that He has called us to share this Good News with the world and sent His Spirit to enable and encourage us in this mission...

So how will we respond to the call?

In our own lives, in our relationships, in our community, in the lives of our city and nation?

Every day we have to make a choice of faith, to respond to the call of Christ in and on our lives.

To believe and hope for ourselves, and to encourage hope and belief in others.

Our walk with the Christ, the story we are a part of is being written every day, what part will you play?

God is good

Jesus is Lord

His Spirit is here.

Amen.

With love and prayers for you all,

Jo



A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

Recently I was able to complete the set of all UK national capital cities with a trip to Belfast.

If you were born before 2000 it is likely that you will have grown up with some level of awareness of ‘the Troubles’ that blighted Northern Ireland from the late 1960s. Indeed, a trip to Northern Ireland might have seemed unwise with a British accent not knowing whether you were likely to meet a handshake or a hand grenade.

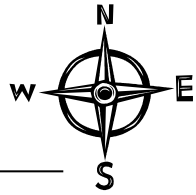
Through the actions of the peacemakers, it is a much safer place today. I can attest that Belfast is beautiful on many levels. Like many UK cities it has a wealth of Victorian architecture that shouts of civic pride. There is an energy in the city – one of the youngest populations in the UK. Perhaps I was fortunate that the weather for my trip was delightful. One thing that appears universal is the warmth of the welcome. In bars, restaurants, galleries, bookshops, museums and cafes there was a genuine warmth to the people that I don’t think I have experienced elsewhere outside of church.

Just a generation ago these people would have been shooting and bombing their ‘rival’ communities. Now, there is a harmony borne of pride in the country and all it has to offer. That is not to say that Belfast is not without division. I took a trip from the centre out to the west of the city where many Catholic communities are based. There was poverty and a sense of deprivation that seemed at odds with the vibrant centre. Yet even there was that same pride. A funeral in the Catholic cathedral was completely rammed. I was left with the sense that, even in death, people turned up for one another.

A visit to the Titanic exhibition confirmed what I had seen elsewhere. It would be easy for that exhibition to be mawkish and sentimental. Instead, there was a fierce sense of pride in the history of the city once known as ‘Linenopolis’ and the centre of the world’s shipbuilding in the early 1900s.

A couple of exhibits at the Ulster Museum near Queen’s University knitted all this together. Here I saw a quilt commemorating the lives of children lost in the Troubles. I saw Unionist and Nationalist propaganda. However, I also saw Dame Mary Peter’s Olympic gold medal, Mairead Corrigan’s Nobel Peace Prize and, most movingly, the introductory page of the Good Friday Agreement signed by all the participants in a hope that working together in understanding is better than tearing each other apart in ignorance.

Prayer Points



SUMMERTIME

June is the beginning of the meteorological summer. Multitudes of different flowers are appearing in gardens and throughout the countryside, for which we give thanks.

*For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise!*

Father Sandford Pierpoint

We remember those who live in lands which are not so fertile or are devastated by war, violence or natural disaster.

*O God, we want to praise and thank you for
giving us so much to enjoy in your world.
Open our eyes to see all the beauty around us,
to appreciate your greatness in giving us the
different seasons, each helping to fulfill our needs.
And if we do not understand why nature is
sometimes cruel and harsh and why people
suffer from earthquakes and other disasters in
your world, help us to trust where we cannot see,
knowing that you love us all.
Help us to do what we can to relieve the suffering
and hardships caused by these disasters and
those caused by human errors.
Make us willing and eager to share the many good
things you have provided for the benefit of all.*

Nancy Martin

The POWER of PRAYER

Are you a particularly practical person? Do you like to fix things or solve problems?

I find it super satisfying to engage with an issue, provide the answer and move it forwards.



If only life was as easy as that?

If only we had the power to fix all things and answer all issues?

It is very easy, even with a deep faith in Christ, to live as if we are indeed God.

As if the world depends on us to sort it out. As if we are the ones who can affect all things.

As if any failure to solve or fix is down to a lack of capacity or skill on our part, or more likely a lack of wisdom or strength of others... (be honest how often do you think that?!)

And so, we spend much of our energy and thoughts on doing more than we can, being frustrated and blaming others. We are not very loving or generous gods are we? Neither to ourselves nor the ones that are, to our minds, letting us down.

But here is the Good News. Jesus has never left us. His Spirit is with us, and we can work with Him in prayer. Jesus has given us a calling to be in the world and join in with the transformation He is bringing about, but he never left us to do it alone.

When we pray we are living into our faith. We are trusting in God to hear us, and we are trusting in his response. Exactly what or when is not for us to determine, rather we are called to be persistent in prayer and seek the Holy Spirit.

I am still amazed at the goodness and power of God every time I turn to him in prayer.

Prayer is not simply for when we are in our time of need but how we are active in our relationship with God every day. The more you do that, the more strength and hope you will find you have.

Look to Jesus for guidance.

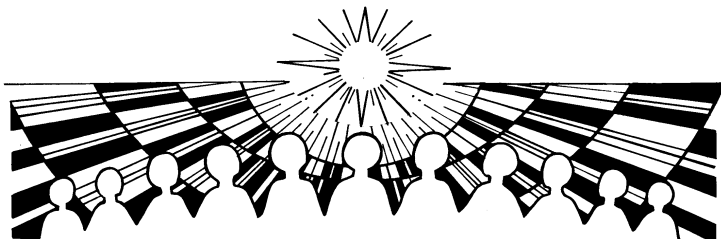
Ask him to help with the impossible.

As St Paul says:

‘Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.’

Philippians 4:6-7

Jo



ECO CHURCH

Lady Danbury in Menston??

Wednesday 10 June at 7.45pm in the Parish Room. So do come along and hear from Bridgertons's Lady Danbury, actor Adjoa Andoh in a conversation recorded at the Greenbelt Festival last August. She speaks about her Christian faith and causing a stir. The event will last about an hour. Come early for the comfy seats!



Eco tips for June – Holiday highlights

- 1 ***Going for a day out*** to the countryside or beach? Take a bag in your pocket and pick up any litter you see.
- 2 ***Planning your day out or holiday journey?*** Use public transport if you can to reduce your carbon emissions. Travelling by train or ferry to Europe can be part of the adventure.
- 3 ***If you are planning to fly for your holiday*** make sure you carbon offset the carbon you generate from your flight eg with Climate Stewards www.climatestewards.org/
- 4 ***Holiday waste?*** When you are away try to take as much care to save energy, recycle, prevent food waste as you would at home.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Climate Action Menston

Our CAM AGM will be held on Thursday 4th June in Kirklands at 7.30pm. Do come along and hear what we have been doing in the last year and elect the executive committee. Also, follow up to the People's Emergency Briefing shown in May. Do come along.



This month:

2 June 2.00pm Summer Outing to 'Caring for Life' farm, with Afternoon Tea.

Transport in members' cars – Dorothy Slater will contact members who need lifts with arrangements for this.

7 June 11.00am Sunday Service

As 2026 is the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Mothers' Union by Mary Sumner, special MU services are being held throughout the month of June in all Dioceses, and our Vicar Jo has kindly agreed for our branch here at St John's to do this on this date.

All the hymns, readings and prayers have been selected by and will be read by MU members. The main address will cover the growth of the Mothers' Union over the years worldwide and also its vision for the future.

We hope our congregation will be interested to hear about the history of the Mothers' Union and the work it undertakes and the finance it raises under the banner of 'Christian Care for Families Worldwide' and for those whose lives have met with adversity.

Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon

Worship this month

7 June The First Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Genesis 12: 1-9; Matthew 9: 9-13
Reader: Mothers' Union member

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist

14 June The Second Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Genesis 18: 1-15; Matthew 9: 18-26
Reader: Wendy Thornhill

9.30am Zest with Communion
11.00am Parish Eucharist

21 June The Third Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Genesis 21: 8-21; Matthew 9: 35-10: 8
Reader: Adele Maddy

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist
3.00pm Youth @ St John's

28 June The Fourth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Genesis 22: 1-14; Matthew 10: 26-39
Reader: Geoff Druett

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist

5 July The Fifth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49; Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-end
Reader: Glenys Prince

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist

MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

9.30am *Thursdays: 4 / 11 / 18 / 25 June / 2 July*



Saturday 27 June - 2pm

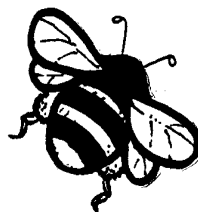
Zest @ Kirklands



**including ice cream van
and fish and chips!**



Help for our BEES!



With summer approaching some species of solitary bees are emerging. All bees are vital for humanity and the environment; sadly, they are in decline. Why not plant some bee-friendly plants? Plants that bees will love include buddleia, alliums, lavender, catmint, snapdragons, foxgloves, campanulas, teasels.

Even if you don't have a big garden, you can plant in tubs on a balcony or in window boxes.

All in the month of June

250 years ago, on 11 June 1776 the Second Continental Congress appointed John Quincy Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert R Livingston and Roger Sherman to create the first draft of the American Declaration of Independence.

The BBC will mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with a programme of American classical music this summer. The concerts will show case the music of famous US composers, including George Gershwin, Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein. American conductors will lead several of the performances.

Sam Jackson, the BBC Radio 3 controller, said: 'The 250th anniversary of American independence is a major moment in world history. We live in uncertain times, but our current geopolitical situation should not lead us to 'cancel' great music, or to deny licence fee payers the opportunity to hear repertoire of both the past and the present.' The Proms will launch with the First Night on 17 July.

80 years ago, on 8 June 1946 the London Victory Celebrations following WW2 took place. Allied forces paraded through London, cheered by crowds that stretched from Buckingham Palace to Regent's Park. Countrywide, an estimated 12 million people joined in various celebrations.

50 years ago, from 23 June to 27 August, the 1976 British Isles Heat Wave took place. One of the hottest and driest summers on record, it dried up rivers and evaporated reservoirs. Domestic water supplies were rationed, and public standpipes were installed in some areas. September and October both saw very heavy rainfall.

30 years ago, on 15 June 1996 the centre of Manchester was devastated by an IRA bomb. 200 people were injured and the city centre had to be redeveloped because of the immense amount of damage.

10 years ago, on 16 June 2016, Jo Cox, Labour MP for Batley and Spen, was murdered by a far-right extremist. She was 41.

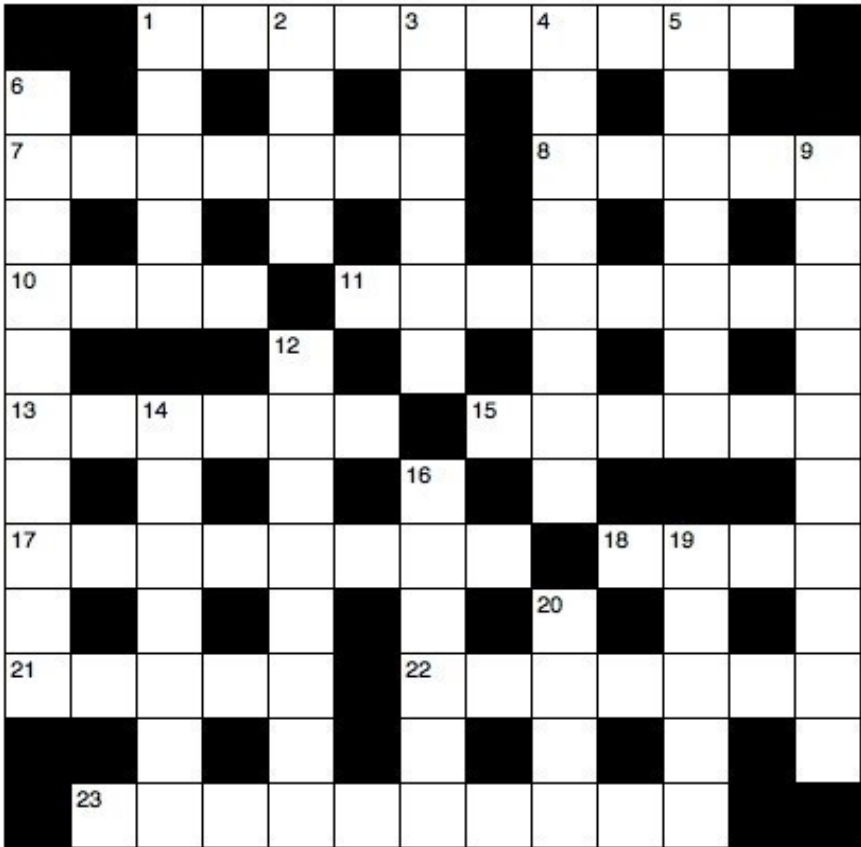
10 years ago, on 23 June 2016 the UK European Union (EU) membership referendum was held. 52% of voters voted to leave the EU, and 48% voted to remain. The UK left the EU on 31 January 2020.

On 11 June – the Anglican Calendar celebrates Barnabas, Paul’s first missionary companion.

Barnabas has two great claims to fame. Firstly, it was Barnabas who made the journey to go and fetch the converted Paul out of Tarsus, and persuade him to go with him to Antioch, where there were many new believers with no one to help them. For a year the two men ministered there, establishing a church. It was here that the believers were first called Christians.

It was also in Antioch (Acts 13) that the Holy Spirit led the church to ‘set aside’ Barnabas and Paul, and to send them out on the church’s first ever ‘missionary journey’. The Bible tells us that they went to Cyprus, and then travelled throughout the island. It was at Lystra that the locals mistook Barnabas for Zeus and Paul for Hermes, much to their dismay.

Parish Pump News Service



Across

- 1 Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)
- 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)
- 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord’s Prayer: ‘Lord, — us to pray’ (Luke 11:1) (5)
- 10 ‘We are hard pressed on every—’(2Corinthians4:8)(4)
- 11 Fraud (2Corinthians6:8)(8)
- 13 ‘His troops advance in force;they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent’ (Job 19:12) (6)

15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)

17 'Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be—'
' (1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)

18 Nomadic dwelling (Genesis 26:25) (4)

21 'As for man, his days are like—, he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)

22 Or I live (anag.) (7)

23 Those guilty of 1 Across (Romans 13:4) (10)

Down

1 'God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son' (John 3:16) (5)

2 'Away in a manger, no — for a bed' (4)

3 Mob ten (anag.) (6)

4 'Each — group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)

5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)

6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)

9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10) 12 Put in jail (Acts 22:19) (8)

14 Aceturn (anag.) (7)

16 Discharge (Acts 21:3) (6)

19 'All these—come from inside and make a man
"unclean"' (Mark 7:23) (5)

20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory!' (Revelation 19:7)
(4)

Answers on inside back cover

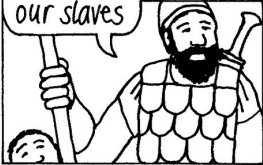
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 17:1-50

The Philistine and Israelite armies
faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic
Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them.

I will fight the best
soldier in Israel's army
and if I win, you will be
our slaves



David's brothers were in
Israel's army. He came to
bring them food, and he
heard Goliath.



He is insulting God!

David's brothers were not
happy.



You just
came to watch the fight.
Go back to your few sheep.

But David didn't stop..



and King Saul
heard what he said.

We shouldn't be cowards.
I will fight him!



You don't stand a chance.

I have killed lions and bears
with God's help.



Then go ahead.
You can wear my armour.

I can't move with all
this on!



So David took it off.

He took his sling
and chose 5 stones
from the stream bed.



Goliath couldn't believe what he saw.



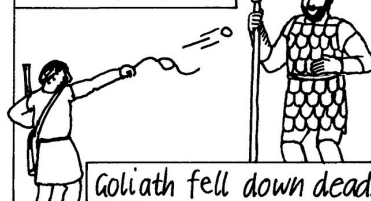
Do you
think I'm a
dog that
you have
come with
a stick?

I have come to fight you
in the name of the All-
powerful God. The Lord
always wins His battles



As Goliath came forward..

David slung his stone and hit
him on the head.



Goliath fell down dead.

The Philistines ran
away, chased by
Israel's army.



NOTICE BOARD

APCM ELECTION RESULTS

Churchwardens:

Dominic Hall and
Julie West

Deanery Synod - May 2029

*Sallie Smith and
Isabel Griffiths*

PCC: to serve for 3 years

Until APCM 2029

Marilyn Banister
Jamie Needle
Catherine Meakin

To serve for 2 years

Dorothy Slater
Thomas Needle

1 vacancy until APCM 2028

The Parish Office is closed from Friday 12 June, reopening Thursday 9 July. The administrator will be available remotely from Tuesday 7 July.



ALTAR FLOWERS

7 June	Judith Knaggs
14 June	Dorothy Slater
28 June	Fiona Johnson



FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

21 June

We welcome into the Lord's family:

Lily Shortman

FUNERAL SERVICES

7 May

4 June

We commend into the hands of Almighty God:

Peter Dixon R.I.P.

Iain Rennie R.I.P.

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Question of the month - June

It seems we can watch TV and films wherever we go. Streaming services mean a world of entertainment is at our fingertips. I remember growing up when trips to the cinema were something of an event. Have we lost that magic?

Filmmakers have responded with 'spectacle' movies the demand a big screen, so my question this month is;

Do you prefer to watch films at home or in the cinema?



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Community Centre Menston

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Menston

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C R A  E N
J E W E L L E R S

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Our sincere thanks to Craven Jewellers who expertly repaired St John's Ciborium.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS from p16

ACROSS: 1, Wickedness. 7, Harpist. 8, Teach. 10, Side. 11, Impostor. 13, Encamp. 15, Saddle. 17, Ignorant. 18, Tent. 21, Grass. 22, Olivier. 23, Wrongdoers.

DOWN: 1, World. 2, Crib. 3, Entomb. 4, National. 5, Started. 6, Whispering. 9, Harvesters. 12, Imprison. 14, Centaur. 16, Unload. 19, Evils, 20, Give.

