

2023

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Trinity Sunday
4 June



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Andrew Lindsay BSc(Hons)

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BOOK REVIEW: The Contented Life – spirituality and the gift of years. By Robert Atwell and Joan Bakewell, Canterbury Press, £9.99

As a new bishop, Robert Atwell was challenged by a number of older church members, who make up the biggest majority in most congregations. Why, they asked, was there always so much for the young; what was there for them? This book grew out of his response.

Atwell argues that 60 really is the new 40 for increasing numbers of people. The retired are a huge consumer category, increasingly recognised by marketing gurus. They may have disposable income, time on their hands, and the leisure of choice – but wisdom, humour and honesty are essential for these transitional decades too. The author’s background in Benedictine life, with its profound understanding of what makes for a balanced and rich life, enhances this book.



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Copy for the double JULY / AUGUST magazine is due by **Sunday 11 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

I've been reading through Exodus in my regular Bible readings recently, and I've been struck by the number of times the newly liberated people of Israel complain and try to circumvent God's goodness. They never seem to learn!

There's the Red Sea debacle, where they're convinced that a God who has just sent plagues to force Egypt to its knees will now abandon them to die on a beach. Then there's the desert where, with their nostalgic glasses on, they remember the food that they saw (though perhaps never ate) in Egypt, before God provided miraculous manna and quail. Then they're thirsty, and God brings water from a rock. Every time, they complain at Moses. He then complains at God, and then God provides.

I have some sympathy though: I remember from experience how mad thirst can drive you, and we all know that fear isn't necessarily rational. So whereas it's easy to be disparaging of the Israelites, we probably could also see ourselves among them. They never learn to trust God, but often neither do we.

We talked at our APCM about the many issues facing our church, but also about the importance of not losing sight of God and sinking instead into the waves of problems. We follow the God who went ahead of his people, providing for them and camping as a barrier to keep them from harm.

But the other thing that the Israelites did which showed their lack of trust in God was that when they were gathering manna for each day, there would always be some who would hoard it. It would then be rotten by the next day, leaving the household red-faced and smelly! When the chips are down, it is natural to stockpile (even loo paper as you will remember). The Israelites, living each day worrying that maybe tomorrow the manna would run out, would have felt this too. They had to rely on God for their literal 'Daily Bread,' and it turns out that when you aren't sure of where tomorrow's bread is coming from, this is hard.

As the future of our world is less certain than it has been before in my lifetime, as the future of the Church of England seems unclear at times, and as issues of finances and volunteer numbers seem sometimes overwhelming in parish, it is hard to trust God for our Daily Bread. Yet, this is what we pray, often automatically without clocking what we are doing. We pray for God's one-day-at-a-time help. Are we able as easily to live trusting God one-day-at-a-time?

Steve

FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

21 May

We welcome into the Lord's family:

Emma Illman

FUNERAL SERVICES

1 May

10 May

We commend into the hands of Almighty God:

Adrian Stocks

Rosemary Midgley

A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

Recently I was walking through Headingley when I saw a magpie. Obviously, I saluted and looked urgently around for his companion. Sadly, he was a loner. A little while later I saw two more magpies frolicking in the sunlight and that set off these thoughts.

Do those two magpies and their symbolism of joy negate the loner and his sorrow? Should I compound them and wonder whether the three of them are going to bring me to meet a girl? How long is the gap between seeing magpies before addition is no longer accepted? And why is it just magpies and no other birds?

The only other avian rhyme I know is about the terrible fate of twenty-four blackbirds who are baked into a pie for the King. Admittedly they don't seem distressed by the experience as they start singing when the pie is cut open. If I were the King, I would be slightly concerned at the competence of the chef!

There are other symbols of good fortune or bad luck associated with the animal kingdom from rabbits' feet to black cats. In Devon a horse with one white leg is considered lucky but more than one is unlucky. If a bird 'deposits' on you it is also supposed to be

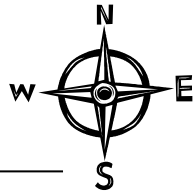
lucky – though I suspect the luck resides with dry cleaners!

As humans we are always looking for little symbols that will improve our chances in life. As Christians we have, however, one great advantage. Our trust and hope are placed in the master planner, the seer of everything and the holder of all power. In theory, we should be the least superstitious people...and yet! I am certain that we all have days when we 'got out of bed on the wrong side'. Walking down the pavement I am sure we will still walk around rather than under a ladder. Watching a friend or relation in the theatre we are bound to wish they 'break a leg'.

These quirks and superstitions are so embedded in our culture and psyche that we rarely notice them. Do they do any good? I am pretty certain they do little more than comfort our anxieties and proffer a little hope for things beyond our control.

Ultimately, they are little more than proof that we don't always have the strength and courage our faith enables. Perhaps the challenge for us is to see that our future is shaped by wisdom, work and faith and that maybe we should leave the rabbit's foot attached to the rabbit!

Prayer Points



Corpus Christi is Latin for 'The body of Christ'. It is celebrated ten days after Pentecost, so is always in June and is usually a Thursday - this year Thursday 8 June.

It is the Thursday after Trinity Sunday when we tie ourselves in knots over our theological mathematical conundrum of three in one and one in three. Celebrating our Creator Redeemer and Sustainer, Father Son, and Holy Spirit. Corpus Christi invites us to experience Jesus for ourselves, through his mystical communion.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus, for your gracious invitation
To all who hunger and thirst to know you more.
Praise you for the bread made for the whole of the world,
With grain sourced in the earth and kneaded by hands
of men and women.
Praise you for the wine, fruit of the vine grown in the
dusty soil,
Crushed underfoot by men and women, barrelled and
bottled for all.
By your Spirit they become our holy food. Praise to you.

*O living one, poured out and broken,
Be with all the other innocent ones this day who had
their bodies violated,
And those whose blood has been needlessly spilt.
Hear the cry of those who mourn,
And those who hunger and thirst for justice.*

We may not celebrate Corpus Christi today as of old, but maybe this month we may have the courage and the desire to reflect on the Bread and Wine, and what they say to us, as we give thanks to the Living God. Amen.

With thanks to Andrew Howorth for this month's Prayer Points

St JOHN'S MISSION GIVING IN 2023

National Charity ~ SAMARITANS

On Sunday 18 June we shall welcome a speaker from Samaritans, this year's national charity, to the 11am service. They will be interviewed by Steve during the sermon slot. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more of the vital work of Samaritans.

At the last meeting of the Outreach group we focused on choosing nine new charities for the congregation to vote on during this summer and autumn. The winners in each of the three categories will be our chosen charities in **2024**. After some discussion the charities selected were as follows:

Local: Outside the Box, Ilkley; Behind Closed Doors,
[June/July] Leeds; INN Churches, Bradford.

National: ECO Church; A Band of Brothers; Shelter
[Aug/Sept]

International: Water Aid; Freedom from Torture;
[Oct/Nov] Bin Twinning

Voting will begin this month and in July for our **2024 LOCAL charity**. A brief outline of the work of each follows.

OUTSIDE THE BOX

Based on South Hawksworth Street, Ilkley, Outside the Box aims to bring a fresh approach to enabling adults and young people who have learning disabilities and other support needs to achieve more and have greater independence, choice and fulfillment in their lives. Members are enabled to express themselves creatively showcase their talents, live more independently, make and see friends and have fun!

(Continued on page 9)

They run an excellent café offering delicious seasonal food, tea, coffee and cake. The café offers a supported work environment that helps members gain real work experience, develop new skills and increase their confidence, social and community connections.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Behind Closed Doors [BCD], Leeds, deals with issues of domestic violence through the 24-hour Leeds Domestic Violence Service Helpline on 0113 246 0401. No matter when or where, domestic abuse is always unacceptable. BCD supports everyone affected by it, regardless of their gender, age, race or sexual orientation and they act to prevent it.

The majority of domestic abuse is against women but there is also a rising issue with violence and abuse towards men. Male victims of domestic violence and abuse are increasingly speaking out and looking for support. Behind Closed Doors is committed to supporting both men and women.

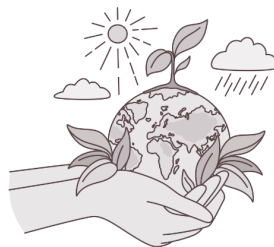
INN CHURCHES, Bradford is a unique project offering shelter, food and companionship to homeless people in Bradford during the coldest months of the year. The work is done on a fantastically small budget and it costs approximately £15 per person per night to provide a bed, breakfast and a good meal in a warm caring environment. Most guests have been living on the streets and sleeping rough. They come from many different backgrounds and have become homeless for a variety of reasons.

Over 850 volunteers from 70 Bradford churches help to feed, host, play games or offer a listening ear to eight homeless people overnight from 7pm - 8am. They also work with each guest to try and find them longer-term accommodation.

Outreach Group

Eco Church Group

The group are delighted that the seeds sown on Easter Saturday are now popping up and we are organising a watering rota (from the water butt) to include young people and families. Please do contact one of us if you would like to get involved.



We have been looking at the various activities that would enable us to gain a silver or gold Eco church award and most relate to our personal lifestyle. So things such as using the car less, walking more and using public transport would all help. A few car related facts:

- Cars are parked 96% of the time.
- 24% move fewer than 3 times per week
- 8% of cars don't move at all in a week!

Yet we give them all a lot of space! 25% of central Keighley is car parking ie enough land for 1260 homes! There are 5 deaths per day due to cars and 160,000 injuries. Air quality suffers and more people suffer long term illnesses. People living in poverty are more impacted by such air pollution so this then becomes a justice issue. So plenty of issues to ponder!

Our young people are going to ask about how you travel to church on some of the Sundays in June and we will be promoting a car free Sunday on 2 July. Do please consider it but we realise it may not be possible for some people.

Are you aware that the no 33 bus serves the village via Cleasby Road and the 962 bus service runs between Otley, Menston, Burley and Ilkley and has a stop on St Peter's Way?

If you would like to get involved in eco church issues, please do get in touch.

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

FAITH QUESTIONS

Question

Despite affirming that they don't believe in God, what is it in the human psyche that in times of need people call on a non-specific power for help?

Response

The first thing to say in response to this question is that it would be inappropriate and patronizing for me to presume to suggest what any individual's reasons might be for turning to God or a non-specific power in time of need. Having said that, historically, philosophers have thought about this. Freud regarded belief in God as wish fulfilment and Nietzsche regarded faith as a crutch or a placebo. Both would therefore have considered the phenomenon being asked about to be just some wishful thinking. Richard Dawkins says '*Nature is not cruel, only pitilessly indifferent,*' and so his response would probably be similar to Freud's.

However, if there is a widespread human phenomenon where we seek the help of a transcendent being then, contrary to Freud and Nietzsche, perhaps this suggests that inside all of us there may be an echo of the sense of a divine 'other'. If so, then the response to seek help may be evidence of an inbuilt, intuitive knowledge and need of a God figure. This wouldn't be surprising from a theological point of view. If we believe that we were created by God, then why wouldn't we have a sense of God's presence? As Augustine, philosopher and saint, said, '*You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.*'

Steve

Worship this month

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 ~ Romans 4
7-8pm The Den

11 June The First Sunday after TRINITY

Readings: Genesis 12: 1-9; Matthew 9: 9-26
Reader: Glenys Prince

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

18 June The Second Sunday after TRINITY

Readings: Genesis 18: 1-15; Matthew 9: 35 - 10: 8
Reader: Dominic Hall

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist
6.00pm 6pm Service ~ Romans 5
7-8pm The Den

25 June The Third Sunday after TRINITY

Readings: Genesis 21: 8-21; Matthew 10: 24-39
Reader: Wendy Thornhill

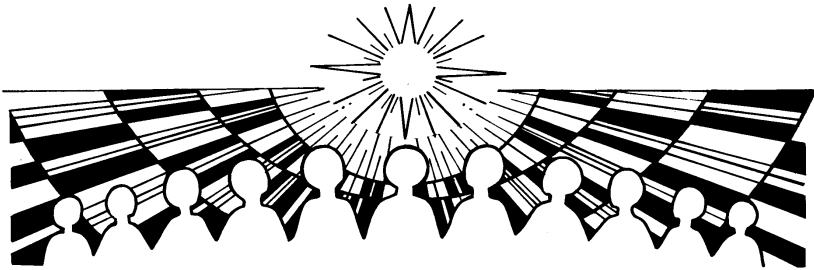
9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist
6.30pm The Den @ 'Release' ~ Ilkley All Saints

2 July The Fourth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Romans 6: 12-end; Matthew 10: 40-end
Reader: Diane Beaumont

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

MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

9.30am Thursdays: 1 / 8 / 15 / 22 / 29 / 6 July



WORSHIP NOTES

HOLY COMMUNION

Just a quick reminder that the practice of intinction (dipping the wafer into the wine) at communion is not recommended and highly discouraged. It is a potential source of the spread of infection and also an issue for those who are sensitive to gluten (for example coeliac sufferers) since the gluten rapidly enters the wine. For

this reason, please keep each other safe by not intincting.

If you are not comfortable with sharing a chalice, please simply take a wafer and let the wine pass by.



Thank you for helping to keep each other safe.

PCC Notes - 25 April

Tonight's meeting is the last one in the 2022/23 church year which gave it something of an end of term atmosphere.

Andrew led the first part of the meeting by splitting us into break-out groups of 3 or 4 to look back over the year at what we have done as a church, that demonstrates our love for the local community.

Many of the groups, including the one that I was in, felt that much of what we do is at least partly motivated by such love. Our greatest achievement, fixing the roof, was an example as it was aimed at making the building suitable to be our base in the long term while we try to obey Jesus' command to 'love our neighbours as ourselves'.

Colin, our treasurer, told us that Keith Bonney who has been the Independent Examiner of the church accounts for 25 years has indicated that he wishes to retire from this role. We sent our thanks to Keith for this service. Colin is also retiring after 17 years as St John's treasurer - having trained Iain Johnson to be able to take over as treasurer at the APCM.

Earlier in the year, soon after Covid restrictions ended, PCC compiled a long list of things that we had been doing before the pandemic but had been suspended

at that point. The last item at this meeting was to try to prioritise restarting some of these items. We did this in small groups but while some valuable suggestions were made we don't yet have a plan so this task will fall to the new PCC in June.

Roger Banister

APCM ELECTION RESULTS

Churchwardens:

Hilary Feathers and
David Mercer

Deanery Synod - May 2026

Marilyn Banister
Sallie Smith
2 vacancies until May 2026

PCC: to serve for 3 years

Dominic Hall
Judith Knaggs
Hannah Needle *
1 vacancy until APCM 2026

1 vacancy until APCM 2025

1 vacancy until APCM 2024





This month:

Tuesday 6 June 2.15pm Open House and Garden at the home of Mrs Sallie Finch, Chevin View, 3A Leathley Close, Menston
Raffle, Tea & Scones – donations welcome

After a trial period of several months, it has been decided to discontinue the social afternoon meeting on the third Tuesday of each month, as only a very small number of members have supported the idea. From now on, our only MU meeting each month will be on the first Tuesday of the month.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

At our last meeting on 2 May we held a very enjoyable fundraising lunch with a Coronation theme and a good time was had by all! Twelve members attended and a total of £142 was raised, which will be divided between two of our MU charities – the Overseas Relief Fund and AFIA (Away from it all Holidays).

The AFIA Fund supports the cost of providing a caravan for the entire summer season each year at Primrose Valley, Filey. The caravan can be offered to families in need on recommendations from clergy, schools, social services etc and most of the expenses are covered, including the costs of entertainments for the children. This enables parents and children to enjoy a lovely holiday away from their everyday struggles.

For many years, Bradford Diocesan MU had its own caravan at Primrose Valley (which we at St John's always feel is the one we are supporting) but now Menston is part of the bigger Leeds Diocese which has other caravans at the site to look after. These obviously require extra funding from all the Leeds branches which now includes us.

Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon

Everything I need to know... I learned from Noah's Ark



- 1 Don't miss the boat.
- 2 Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- 3 Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- 4 Stay fit. When you're very old Someone may ask you to do something really big.
- 5 Don't listen to critics. Just get on with the job needing to be done.
- 6 Build your future on high ground.
- 7 For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
- 8 Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- 9 When you're stressed, float awhile.
- 10 No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Author unknown

Climate Action Menston

We are looking forward to our AGM when there will be a chance to hear what we have been up to in the last year and watch a short presentation on Carbon Literacy and the Environment Agency's 2030 net zero ambition. The meeting is at Kirklands on Wednesday 21 June at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome. We will be holding elections for the various positions on the Executive committee so do please consider getting involved.

Before then we plan to mark the '**Great Big Green Week**' by writing '*Letters to Tomorrow*'. Everyone can get involved and we hope to run a session at the Library on Monday 12 June in the afternoon. *Letters to Tomorrow* explains peoples' hopes for future generations if our leaders step up to protect the environment – and fears about what life could be like if we don't slow down climate change.

For further information about CAM and to contact us see: <https://climateactionmenston.org.uk/enquiries/> or ring Marilyn on 874220.

2025 Menston Heritage Group

We are continuing to create a timeline for Menston history and information is now available on the menston.org website. We will be making use of the library space shortly as we gather archive material and start to catalogue it for future use.

We will be starting to work on how we film places and people of interest for our trail and do get in touch if you are interested in this aspect of what we are doing.

We next meet on Monday 12 June at 7.30pm in Kirklands and details are posted on the menston.org website as we are a sub committee of Menston Parish Council.

If you are interested in joining us, do come along. Further information from Marilyn on 874220.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

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

Jacob had cheated his father and brother, and had run away to stay with his uncle Laban. On the way there..

Jacob saw angels and heard God.

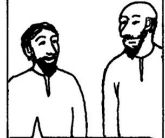


At Laban's house, Jacob met his cousin Rachel



Work for me for 7 years and you can marry her

7 years later



Can I marry Rachel now?

But Laban tricked him into marrying her sister Leah



So Jacob worked 7 more years to marry Rachel



Then he said to Laban

As you aren't paying me wages, can I have the black sheep?



Laban agreed, but that day he moved all the black sheep far away



But God blessed Jacob and his black flock grew



Laban became very jealous of Isaac



Your father doesn't like me any more. We need to go back to my home.



They waited until Laban was away..



but he was told ...



NOTICE BOARD

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 4 June..*

MENSTON CARES

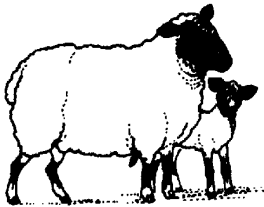
Menston Cares **AGM** is to take place on **Wednesday 21 June** at **2pm** in the **Methodist Church Hall**. The meeting will be followed by a strawberry cream tea and a photographic presentation by Tony Burkitt on the English Lakes. All are welcome.

MEMORY CAFÉ - 7 June

On the **first Wednesday** of each month a new venture, a **Memory Cafe** begins. It will be held in Cornerstone Cafe at the Methodist Church, Menston from **10.00 - 12.30pm** for people who are living with dementia.

They can attend with or without their carers. Sadie Parkinson, Community Liaison Worker from Home Instead, will provide the activities whilst the carers can enjoy refreshments and conversation with other carers.

If you are interested in helping please contact Jo Dixon who is the pastoral worker at Menston Methodist Church - 01943 873245 or 07870 700713.



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