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MENSTON
PARISH CHURCH
St John the Divine



New Inclusive Support for LGBTQIA+ People in the Diocese of Leeds:



On Tuesday 9 June, Bishop Toby licensed Andrew Howorth to be the first Diocesan LGBTQIA+ Chaplain here in Leeds. This is a practical way for the Diocese of Leeds to demonstrate how we are working together to accept and affirm *all* God's people. The new role will be in addition to the work Andrew does as Associate here at St Johns, and co-ordinating the Open Table Community in Bradford.

Bishop Toby said 'The chaplaincy service will provide confidential, non-judgemental spiritual and pastoral care, with a particular concern for those in ministry or exploring their vocation. Supporting the ministry of lay and ordained people who identify within the LGBTQIA+ community, and those who would identify as same sex attracted. We will offer resources around inclusion for Churches and Individuals, and a channel of communication between the LGBTQIA+ community and the senior leaders of the Diocese.'

Please pray for Andrew and he begins to establish this new piece of work across the diocese.

This month		P9	Menston MU news
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Copy for the SEPTEMBER magazine is due by **Sunday 9 AUGUST**. 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

Our family are football mad. And with the World Cup underway much of the country has gone football mad too.

As the only one in my family who has never played a game of football, I am in the 'if you can't beat them join them camp'. A conscious decision I made over 20 years ago when my then boyfriend (now husband) was symptomatic with footy madness. So, if you are not a fan, I wonder if I might be able to redeem it for you?

Football is a major and joyous part of my life. I love being outside watching the kids play. I am watching all three grow in confidence, resilience and appreciation of teamwork through playing the game. I have observed amazing moments where players show a genuine care for the opposition, where players don't retaliate to unjust challenges, where thousands of people joyfully sing the same song in unison and commit to one another even though they are strangers.

The football stadium can be a place where we come together and respond to one another as Jesus would have us do. We can be disciples on the pitch and in the terraces.

I have seen this in my own kids.

The referee awarding my son a penalty, only for my son to correct him and say it wasn't one. His coach was unimpressed – but what a witness to a different way of being! Not self-serving but instead committing to the truth and justice even when it costs us. He won Player's Player, Parents' Player and Manager's Player of the year awards this season. All while be true to Jesus and his Way.

At a football tournament my daughter won a semifinal – she came to me and said ‘Mummy, I literally prayed to God – and it worked!’. Now there is some theology to unpack there, clearly not every prayer for a win leads to victory – Newcastle United would be doing better if so! But what I notice is she turned to God for help – and she would have been less likely to have had that ‘moment of seeking’ at home watching TV.

And I note the amazing witness professional Christian footballers are. In front of crowds, and across TV and the internet, reaching millions. Starting matches by praying, celebrating by signing the cross and giving thanks to God in post-match interviews.

So, football, like all aspects of life can be a place and opportunity to seek God, witness to Christ and join together. We can be disciples anywhere, wherever we find ourselves we can follow Jesus’ Way, and in doing show others the Way to walk in.

So however, you spend your time this summer, whatever your work or hobbies, whether at home or on holiday, there are opportunities to follow Jesus, and do as he would do.

And rather than simply enjoy, or despair, at the World Cup this summer, pray that the witness to Jesus would be strong. Now the big question is who does God want to win? Well, there is only one victory that matters. That is the victory over death that Jesus won for us.

All other wins are insignificant and change nothing, even if they do feel nice for a bit.

May you all have a blessed and joyful summer,

And may you share your blessings and joy with others,

In the name of Christ, Amen.

Jo

See page 16 for some inspirational quotes!

A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

I have been thinking recently about dates. No, not of the medjool or pitted variety that always used to grace our homes at Christmas. Nor the kind that include anxiously scouring a wardrobe, dousing yourself in enough scent to stun a team of oxen, thinking of small talk in dimly lit bars and restaurants in the hope of forging a union either for the night or a lifetime!

These dates are found in the calendar. Not all of them but those which have a specific meaning – birthdays, anniversaries, parties, you get the drift. Increasingly over the past few years every day seems to be a celebration or commemoration of something. As we head off into the summer, I thought I would share some of them with you. I think it says a lot about identity and community – though it probably speaks most loudly about marketing!

In the first week of July alone there are celebrations for ginger snaps (USA 1 July), police (Azerbaijan 2 July), St Thomas the Apostle (Roman Catholicism 3 July), World Chocolate Day (7 July) along with independence celebrations in fourteen countries including, of course the USA on 4 July. Throughout July there are ‘days’ to acknowledge fried chicken, teachers, The Beatles, engineers, friends, Nelson Mandela, Simon de Bolivar, tigers, martyrs and bankers.

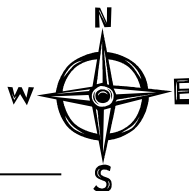
The situation is similar in August. Twenty-two countries commemorate their independence, including Ukraine. There are also days for mustard, children, farmers, grandparents, left-handers, elephants, cats, lemon meringue pie and Yorkshire!

Is it all a load of nonsense? In some cases, it is clearly an attempt to raise the profile of certain products – particularly food and drink. However, I think it also gives us a chance to look again at things that often pass us by. I’ll use two as an example. August 14 is a day in several central American countries celebrating engineers. Think of the ways that engineers over the decades have improved our lives. The bridges and roads we travel on, the machines that make life easier, the inventions that have eradicated problems. Do we ever appreciate them?

What about our friends? Friendship Day (or Día del Amigo) is another central and South American celebration. Do we ever take time to properly appreciate what our friends do for us? The laughs, the tears, the shoulders to cry on, the ego boosts?

While it might seem there is a ‘day’ for everything, I think it is a useful reminder that our world is rich and varied and it is worth taking a moment, if not a whole **day**, to appreciate the richness of being alive.

Prayer Points



July and August are usually seen as a time of rest and relaxation. I hope that, whether you are going away or remaining at home, we have some pleasant days when we can get outside, maybe sit in the garden, or use our benches in the church grounds to enjoy and appreciate the joy of God's creation.

It is important in this fast-moving driven world that we find a place and a time to rest. Any musician will tell you that the 'rest' in musical composition is an important part of the rhythm. A writer will tell you how important the 'comma' is in making sense of a sentence. Jesus says: *'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls' (Matthew 11:28-29)*

The second collect at Evening Prayer in the Book of Common Prayer gives us : *'O God from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give to thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts maybe set to obey thy commandments, and that we may be defended from the fear of our enemies that we may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen'*

I was once told that in China, the polite answer to the question 'how are you?' is 'I am very busy thank you'. If you are busy then you must be fine. If you have more to do than can be done, and the list never gets done but grows longer then you must be very fine, because not only in China but also here at home, successful people are busy people, for millions and millions of people busy-ness is the Way of Life. An overcrowded diary is a virtue; a hectic social life is a status symbol. What a crazy world.

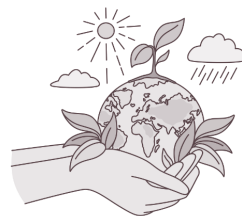
The psalmist tells us: *'Be still, and know that I am God'*.

Have a truly blessed, restorative and peaceful summer, may you know the refreshment of Gods Spirit, and the Peace that comes only from Him. Amen.

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

ECO / COMMUNITY NEWS

Following an enjoyable evening hearing about the life of the actor who plays Lady Danbury in Bridgerton, we are looking at what next!



Our vegetable seeds are doing just about OK but the weather is presenting some challenges!

Since the new labels on the bins in the kitchen, the recycling rate has improved - thank you to everyone who does the sorting!

Parish Room Heating Project

Three PCC members are looking at options to replace the aging boiler in the Parish Room as it has become more unreliable. All possibilities being looked at!

Heritage Group

Archiving continues and the group next meets on Monday 13th July at 7.30 in Kirklands. If you have information about the village that you think should be preserved do get in touch. Marilyn.

Climate Action Menston

40 people gathered at Kirklands to watch the ***People's Emergency Briefing*** film. Reactions to it ranged from hopeful to anger with alarmed and upset mixed in with inspired. Actions to follow up include contacting our MP to ask her to support a national televised briefing and also signing the petition so that it is debated in Parliament.

The thrust of the film is that we have the tools to take action on the climate emergency but we need leadership for it to happen and leaders need to hear from people like us, that we care!

Marilyn Banister

This month:

7 July 2.15pm We have been kindly invited to Sue Wilbraham's home and garden (weather permitting) for a social meeting with afternoon tea, for which we are most grateful. Her address is 2 Park Way, Menston, but if any member feels unable to walk there, please contact Marjorie on 870924 or Dorothy on 879536 to arrange a lift.

9 August We normally have a break from our meetings in August, but as this day is Mary Sumner Day and the date of her birthday, and 2026 our 150th Anniversary Year, all members are asked to celebrate it. Some branches hold special events yearly, but Menston never has because of our summer break, but this year all members are asked to light a candle at home and say the Mary Sumner prayer alone or with other members:-

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen.

1 Sept 2.15pm This will be the first meeting of our new session, but please meet in the Parish Room on arrival, as arrangements have not been made yet for a meeting there or a service in church.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon



THURS 20 AUG | ST JOHN'S PARISH ROOM | 4PM KICK OFF

FC26

TOURNAMENT

COULD YOU BE THE FC26 CHAMPION OF MENSTON?

**COME ALONG AND TEST YOUR FC SKILLS AGAINST
OTHERS IN THE VILLAGE!**

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FOR ST JOHN'S YOUTH IN THE PARISH ROOM**



ST JOHN'S, MENSTON

SUMMER CONVERSATIONS

The Lord's Prayer

Ever wondered what we really mean when we pray the Lord's prayer?

Come and explore this ancient yet ever relevant prayer
that Jesus taught us.

Conversations over four weeks in August looking at:

"Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be thy name"

"Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven"

"Give us today our daily bread"

"Forgive us our sins...lead us not into temptation...
deliver us from evil"

Watch out for more info!

Register your interest with Rev Jo, Rev Andrew or the Parish Office.



July/August Worship

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

12 July The Sixth Sunday after TRINITY

Readings: Genesis 25: 19-end; Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

Reader: *Dominic Hall*

9.30am Zest with Communion

11.00am Parish Eucharist

3.00pm **IGNITE** ages 10+ / **FIREWORKS** ages 6-9.

No meeting in August.

19 July The Seventh Sunday after TRINITY

Readings: Genesis 28: 10-19a; Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

Reader: *Diane Beaumont*

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

26 July Eighth Sunday after TRINITY

Readings: Genesis 29: 15-28; Matthew 13: 34-50

Reader: *Elizabeth Leopold*

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist - *Revd Barry Overend*

2 Aug The Ninth Sunday after TRINITY

Readings: Genesis 32: 22-31; Matthew 14: 13-21

Reader: *Heather Greig*

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist - *Revd Phil Moon*

9 Aug The Tenth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Genesis 37; 1-4, 12-28; Matthew 14: 22-23
Reader: Julie West

9.30am Zest with Holy Communion
11.00am Parish Eucharist

16 Aug The Eleventh Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Genesis 45: 1-15; Matthew 15: 21-28
Reader: David Machin

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist

23 Aug The Twelfth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Exodus 1: 8—2: 10, Matthew 16: 13-20
Reader: Hilary Feathers

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist

30 Aug The Thirteenth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Exodus 3: 1-15, Matthew 16: 21-end
Reader: Dorothy Slater

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist

6 Sept The Fourteenth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Exodus 12: 1-14, Matthew 18: 15.20
Reader: Jan Alexander

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist

MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

9.30am Thursdays: July 2 / 9 / 16 / 23 / 30; August 6 / 13 / 20 / 27 ; September 3.

A GOOD READ by Dominic Hall

The dazzling sun, the scorching heat! Get me an umbrella, a pool, a long cool drink and a deeply satisfying book I hear you cry. The brolly, water and libation you will have to source yourselves; however, the reading matter I have in hand!

A modern classic to set the literary ball rolling. Following the success of *Conclave* a couple of years ago, I decided to explore some earlier works by the author. This led me to ***Fatherland* by Robert Harris**. It is the archetypal ‘what if’. In this case, what if the Nazis had won. The story is based in a Berlin controlled by Nazi propaganda. Evidence of the Holocaust is non-existent, and the preparations are ongoing to celebrate the Fuhrer’s 75th birthday. Harris’ premise is that corrupt regimes fall apart eventually. That is the case here and makes for a thrilling if alarming read.

What happens when you have grown up in a fervent Baptist family, but you happen to be gay? That happened to ***Garrard Conley***, and he recounts the experience in ***‘Boy Erased’***. The book centres on the ‘conversion therapy’ programme in which he is enrolled by his parents. Far from ‘curing’ him, the programme helps Conley to understand the true nature of faith and love and the reader is left both outraged and hopeful in the powerful testimony. The ending is, however, quietly devastating.

Sometimes we are able to avoid devastation, if only by a hair’s breadth. In ***‘I Am, I Am, I Am’ the writer Maggie O’Farrell*** recounts seventeen times in her life when she has come close to death. Each chapter relates to the part of the body that faces greatest risk. I must include a trigger warning for the chapter that deals with a miscarriage. The writing is astoundingly powerful thus making this chapter a harrowing read. The book in its entirety will be some of the most life-affirming writing about death you will ever encounter.

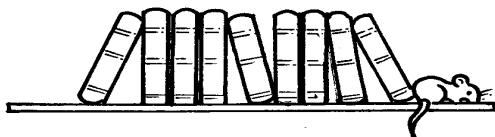
When all that you know is threatened, what do you do? This question is addressed in my next two choices. In ***‘The Siege’* by**

Ismail Kadare, the Albanian people are threatened by the inexorable advance of the Ottoman Empire. Withdrawing to a mountain citadel they pray for a miracle. In Albania, the figure of Skanderbeg is a national hero. Kadare tells his story through the people affected by his actions and presents us with a powerful tale of human courage. In *'The Pretender'*, **Jo Harkin** tells the story of Lambert Simnel, Yorkist pretender to the throne taken by Henry VII. Simnel is presented as the pawn of powerful men determined to prolong the Wars of the Roses and seek their own advantage. After his capture he does a deal with Henry and sets about wreaking revenge on those who have exploited him. This book contains some extremely robust language as the tensions run high.

I started with a fictional tale from post-war Germany and end with a factual but no less extraordinary tale. In *'The Prosecutor'* by **Jack Fairweather** we meet Fritz Bauer, a gay German Jew who is determined not to let the Holocaust vanish into history. He works hard against vast and powerful opposition to bring to justice those responsible for Nazi atrocities who have managed to ease themselves back into society. Fairweather's writing has the feel of a cold war thriller and you keep having to pinch yourself to be reminded that this is a true story. It is powerful to remember that condemning the great wrong is worthless if those who enabled it are left unpunished. The theme running through this book, indeed all of these books, is the power of human resilience and the determination to search for truth.

I hope that while a cool drink by a pool might wet your whistle, there is something here to whet your reading appetites. Have a lovely summer.

Editor: It would be lovely to hear YOUR thoughts on any of Dominic's suggestions. No deadlines!

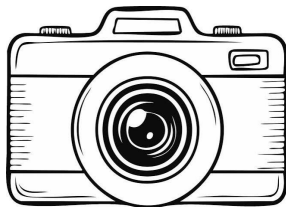


Inspiration from men's professional football:

- ♦ Curaçao's Eloy Room recorded 15 saves against Ecuador, the most on record (since 1966) by any goalkeeper in a FIFA World Cup match that did not feature extra-time. Only Jesus can Save more.
- ♦ Marc Guéhi (England) is a Christian and has Bible verses inscribed on his boots, including Isaiah 54:17: *'No weapon forged against you will prevail.'*
- ♦ Guéhi also wrote *'Jesus loves U'* on a rainbow pride captain's armband during a Premier League match.
- ♦ Bukayo Saka, Eberechi Eze and Noni Madueke (all playing for England) were part of a group at Arsenal called the *'Bible Brothers'*.
- ♦ Christian Pulisic (USA) said in a post-match interview, *'I've had to continue to prove myself over and over again. But, as always, I reach out to God, and He gives me strength. With that behind me, nothing can stop me, really.'*
- ♦ Goalkeeper Allison (Liverpool and Brazil) says *'Real faith came to me later in life. Faith is not something that can be been, or even put into words. It is a force that is more powerful than just a feeling of emotion, or a slogan. It is the complete trust in the Son of God, Jesus Christ.'*
- ♦ In 2020, Alisson baptized Liverpool teammate Roberto Firmino in the swimming pool at his home.
- ♦ Noah Sadiki (DRC) - following his first Africa Cup of Nations appearance, journalists asked him about the secret behind his strong performances. Rather than giving a lengthy answer, Sadiki simply held up his Bible.



PHOTO COMPETITION



This year at Harvest we are reflecting on God's beautiful gifts to us in Creation, and our call to care for His World. As you notice the wonder of Creation this summer, whether that is watching the birds from your window, tending your garden, walking in the wild, or holidaying somewhere, we would love for you to capture a photo to share with others.

Photos will be judged by the vicar, magazine editor and eco-church lead.

Winning photos will be published in the October Parish Magazine, on the church website, and displayed in church at Harvest Time. The overall winner will receive an enlarged framed print of their photo.

Competition is open to all in Menston Parish, photos must be taken by yourself and not enhanced with AI - we want real and raw. Submissions to office@stjohnmenston.org.uk by 1st September 2026 – please include name, age and postcode. You can enter a maximum of one photo per category and make clear which category it is for. Please include a one-line caption/title with your entry.

Categories:

- ♦ *Miraculous Design* – close ups of detail and wonder in God's Creation.
- ♦ *Nature at its best* – pure beauty and awesome sights in God's Creation.
- ♦ *Wonder in Menston* – God's Creation in Menston.
- ♦ *The need for change* – where we need to look after God's Creation more.
- ♦ *Young photographers* – *Photos of Creation* by those aged 12-15, 9-11 and 8 and under.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 24

God chose Saul to be the King of Israel, but Saul chose to disobey Him. God said that the next king would not be Saul's son.

Saul didn't know that God had chosen David to be the next king.



David was very successful as a fighter and very popular.



David had to go on the run and hide.



One day, Saul and his army were in En-Gedi. Saul needed to pee, so he went into a sheep fold built next to a cave...

David and his men were hiding at the back of the cave!



David crept over and cut a piece off Saul's robe.



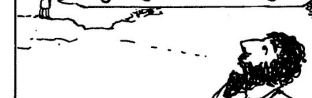
Then David felt bad.



David waited until Saul was far enough away then he shouted to him.



Your majesty, I could have killed you today, but I knew it was wrong. I want to prove to you I'm not trying to harm you.



David, you are better than me. I would have killed you but you were kind.



Now I know you will be the next king, but please look after my family.

David promised, and Saul and his army went home.



FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

19 July

We welcome into the Lord's family:

Molly Mary Darmody-Pattinson and
Mary-Helen Pattinson

16 August

Imogen Crowther

FUNERAL SERVICES

24 June

We commend into the hands of Almighty God:

Pat Machin R.I.P.

ALTAR FLOWERS

19 July

Judith Knaggs

2 / 9 August

Elizabeth Leopold

23 August

Fiona Johnson

30 August

Cheryl Thornton & Tracy Dryden-Jones



LADIES PLEASE CONCERT

Ladies Please are pleased to be singing in Menston Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 18 July at 2.30pm. Tickets will be available on the door and cost £5 only.

All proceeds are in support of the High Royds Memorial Garden and Chapel, a haven of tranquillity, away from the turmoil of daily life, and such a worthwhile cause to support.

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These next couple of months will see many people heading off on their annual holidays. Whether travelling across the world, a hop over to the continent, exploring the British Isles or indulging in a staycation, we all treasure the respite from daily routine.

With holidays very much at the forefront of the mind, my question this month is;

**If money were no object, where would be your
ideal holiday destination?**



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Home Instead Activities Group in Partnership with Kirklands Community Centre

1st Tuesday of every month, 10am-1pm, Library at Kirklands
Community Centre Menston

Memory Cafe

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Menston

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