

2026

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MENSTON
PARISH CHURCH
St John the Divine



£1

CELEBRATING CREATION
Harvest Festival
Sunday 4 October

NUVO BFE BRAYS

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Please call to discuss your personal needs.

Contact Sarah: 01943 874018 or 07919 566352

Excellent references available.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION RESULTS!

The results are in! See pages 10 / 11 / 14 / 15 / 16. A total of 48 photographs were submitted, which made judging quite daunting. The standard was very high and the wonderfully varied choices of subject in each category added to the challenge of our task! In addition to the 1/ 2 / 3 in each category, we felt that three photographs deserved to be highly commended.

All the photographs will be on display in church for a few weeks.

You are invited to vote for the 'People's Choice' overall winning photograph. A box will be provided for your votes and the winner announced at the Harvest service on Sunday 4 October, 10.30am.

Thank you to all who took part - we have some excellent photographers in our midst.

*Judges: Jan Alexander and Marilyn Banister
Arbiter (if needed) Jo*



This month		P9 'I have called you by name'
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Copy for the NOVEMBER magazine is due by **Sunday 11 October**. 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

The weather is cooler and the days are growing shorter, we are entering that season when our homes are even more precious than our gardens.

This Harvest we are reflecting on how our faith inspires us to consider our home on Planet Earth and take good care of it.

To help you do that, imagine this.

You lived in your home for some time. You've taken care to decorate it, to maintain it. It's a space in which you live, and from which you live.

There is light, there is warmth.

You have art and craft from those you love adorning the walls. You have objects of beauty from far and wide. It might not be in any interior design magazine, but it is place of goodness and life.

You've shared it with those you love. It's been a place of laughter and a safe place to cry.

You decide you are going on a trip over winter, and everyone seems to be renting their places out on Airbnb. So you do the same. You want someone to be enjoying the space and keep it warm and secure while you are away.

So you agree to rent it out over winter, while you enjoy the Sun. Spring comes and you return.

The front door is kicked in. The windows are broken. You walk through in disbelief.

The wallpaper is ripped, the kids picture crumpled on the floor, the garden is trashed. Flies fill the kitchen from all the waste strewn around.

You can't stand it, you walk back out the way you came. You sit on the path, head in hands. You begin to cry.

And you stutter out loud "They were supposed to be looking after it".



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Join Us!

**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

1st Wednesday of every month, 10am-12pm, Cornerstone Cafe
Menston

*St John's Church is not responsible for the quality of work or
services advertised in this magazine*

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regular chairs but not mobility
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Volunteers welcome.
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Magazine Advertising

1/12th page ~ £30 / year

1/6th page ~ £58 / year

*Larger sizes available
on request from
the Parish Office.*

01943 872433

Question of the month:

October is harvest month and the beginning of
autumn. The question this month is

*What fruit or vegetable that is harvested at this
time do you look forward to eating?*

Everything good in our lives we have through the grace of God. All good
things come from him.

Yet too often we forget that we are merely renting this world.

We are custodians and stewards of His world, which is to be our home for
a time, and the home of all his creatures.

Would you walk into someone else's house and trash it?

Why does that feel more outrageous than the ways in which we are
trashing the earth?

Maybe because those who notice the destruction and its impact are far
away so we can forget about them and our impact on their lives.

They are far away in space i.e. they live in another country. Or they are
far away in time i.e. the future generations will have to sort it out.

We find it hard to deal with the disconnect between our actions and our
consequences. That is human nature. We are short termist and value that
which we can see.

And so, we find it quite easy to trash another's home, because we do not
recognise that is what we are doing.

But we are.

And you may not know the farmer who lives on the Bangladeshi flood
plain, nor the firefighters risking their lives in British Columbia, nor the
baby born last week who will have to get used to heatwaves.

But you do know Jesus. And this his house.

Treat it with care and gratitude, and help make it ready for his return.

I wonder what one thing you could commit to doing differently, to honour
your Landlord who lets you live here rent free?

Food for thought this Harvest,

Blessings,

Jo

A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

I have recently been visiting my brother in Calgary. During my time in the west of Canada we went to a centre for indigenous peoples. The centre was in a place called Blackfoot Crossing and marked the spot where various western tribes signed a treaty with the British Crown to protect their lands.

You won't need me to tell you that the treaty was full of loopholes that favoured the settlers rather than the indigenous peoples. However, it is not the purpose of this article to revisit those old grievances.

Part of the exhibition told the creation story of the Siksika Nation, a first nation people of southern Alberta. In this story, a creator, Apistotoke, a featureless spirit living in the sky made all things. He placed the animals where he felt they should be and populated the lands and rivers with abundance for the Siksika Nation who were hewn from the stars and placed on earth. An addition that made me chuckle was that Apistotoke made dogs last and there was no room left for them, so he placed the original dog in the moon. A dog escaped and bred on earth, this is the reason that, on a full moon, wild dogs and coyote howl at the moon.

What I found interesting was that this story resonated in some ways with the Creation story in Christianity despite there being no contact between the people. It got me thinking that a lot of what people believe is based on their experience. The Siksika live in a vast landscape where coyote run free and have used the experiences to create stories passed in an oral tradition that are based on their history. For them, 'all' living things were the plants and trees, themselves and the dogs, buffalo and fish they experienced. There are no references to smaller animals and it appears they tell stories of their own world.

We are blessed that our creation story is based not in the experiences of one single people but encompasses all of creation – not just here on Earth but throughout the universe. It seems that different people yearn for a knowledge greater than themselves and that gaps in the knowledge are filled with stories.

In that, we are all similar but there is a core truth in Christianity that stands up as universal and provides comfort and surety that the greater being we know of, God, is a creator and provider for all – even those who tell different origin stories.

NOTICE BOARD

THANK YOU

On behalf of the family, with special thanks from Pat herself, we are full of gratitude to so many of our friends, church-goers and Menston folk for the wonderful encouragement given to us over the last months. Your kindness has meant a great deal to us all, most particularly to Pat during her struggles. Without doubt all your help was an inspiration to Pat which we shall never forget. God bless you all! From David, Andy and Heather, with all the rest of the family.

The PARISH OFFICE

is closed the week beginning Monday 12 October, reopening as normal the following week. Please send any notices for the Sunday 18 October notes to the administrator by 9.30am on Thursday 8 October.

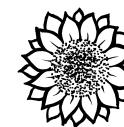
SUMMERTIME

ENDS A reminder that the clocks go **BACK** one hour on **Sunday 25 October.**



ALTAR FLOWERS ~ October

4 Oct	Creation Celebration
11 Oct	Elizabeth Leopold
18 Oct	Dorothy Slater
25 Oct	Charmian Thomas



Light Up St John's – Floodlight Sponsorship

A very special way to mark an anniversary or simply to give thanks. The cost is £5 per evening which helps to cover the costs of floodlighting the church from dusk until 10.30pm.



Contact the Parish Office to make arrangements: 872433
or office@stjohnmenston.org.uk

Bible Bite

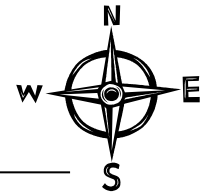
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 24:44-51, Luke 12:40-46

Jesus warned his disciples to be always ready for his return at the end of time by telling the story of two servants



Prayer Points



God's promise to Noah (Genesis 8 v 22)

'While the earth remains seed time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease'.

Autumn Prayer

As leaves swirl and settle
so may our minds settle to worship

As birds gather for long journeys
so may we be together in prayer

As buds form ready for spring
so may our souls be ready for growth

We come to worship the Living God
We are here for worship, body, mind and soul.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

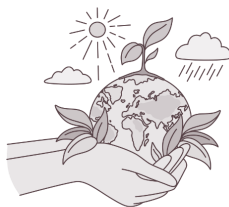
An Autumn sending

Loving God, Creator of all seasons and of this autumn day:
as summer sheds her sheen of warmth
as the long days give way to longer nights,
we give thanks for the daily invitation
from you, the God of love, compassion and forgiveness
to shed all that smothers and stifles human flourishing.
Loving God, Son of all seasons and of this autumn time,
as the leaves fall from the trees and scatter at our feet,
we give thanks for the daily invitation
from you, the God of fragility and strength,
to lay ourselves open to the resilience and vulnerability
seen in your living and dying and your living again.
Holy Spirit, wind of all seasons and of this autumn moment.
We give thanks for this community to which we belong.
in the knowledge that you are the God of time, and of all time.

With thanks to David Mercer for this month's Prayer Points

ECO / COMMUNITY NEWS

On Thursday 8 October at 7.30pm in the Parish Room, there is an opportunity to listen to a talk from the Greenbelt Festival by Mina Smallman MBE. In 2020 her daughters were murdered in a London park. Mina is the first woman of colour to be an Archdeacon in the Church of England and she campaigns for justice for her daughters and for a better, more equal Britain. Do come along to hear her moving conversation with Cole Moreton.



Heads up for the next **CHRISTMAS JUMPER SWOP** at the Menston Lights Switch on - **5 December**. Adults and children's Christmas jumpers in good condition can be donated and you can hope for a 'new to you' one on the day! So have a sort out over the coming weeks and look out for the donation box.

MUSIC IN THE AIR

Contact is being made with local performers for the next concert so save the date - Saturday 14 November from 2.30 - 4.30pm. Tickets on sale soon! *Marilyn*.

CLIMATE ACTION MENSTON

The Travel and Transport working group will meet on Wednesday 14 October at 7.30pm at Kirklands. Plenty to catch up on - the Main Street trial and more ideas re Main Street plus the Greenway. Do come along. *Marilyn*.

HERITAGE GROUP

We have recently been given a history of the owners of a Menston property going back to the 1870's. It would be great to gather more of this sort of information so if you have your old deeds and want to delve into them, do give it a go and let us know what you find.

The group will meet on Tuesday 20 October at 7.30pm in Kirklands. If you have information about the village that you think should be preserved do get in touch. *Marilyn*.



This month:

6 October 2.15pm Afternoon Tea in the Parish Room
Members to bring favourite poems

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

As the end of the year approaches – the 150th year of the founding of the Mothers' Union, we must look back at all that members have achieved.

Normally during the summer months, all fundraising efforts go towards the Summer of Hope Appeal, but this year all proceeds went to the 150th Anniversary Fund.

Many branches in the Leeds Diocese held afternoon teas, garden parties etc. and the monies raised will be funding the many MU programs in this country and worldwide, which support marriage and family life and those whose lives have met with adversity.

Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon

Some sayings of Julian of Norwich

*From him we come. In him we are enfolded.
To him we return.*

*He did not say you will not be storm tossed, but he
did say you will not be overcome.*

*All shall be well and all manner of things
shall be well.*

♦ Under 8s



1st - Ombré, Moraine Lake
Amazing appreciation of ombré (blending of one colour hue to another).
Elsa Glenwright



2nd - Otters feeding
A fun, interesting scene captured. *Henry Sheppard*

♦ 9-11 years of age



1st - 'Come on in! An invitation from nature, Kilnsey
Thoughtful composition.
Ted Glenwright



2nd - Hello there! Chipmunk, Canada
Great snap of a fast mover!
Max Glenwright

 The diocese of Leeds

SUNDAY OCTOBER 11th

4.00pm
St John's Church Menston

I HAVE CALLED YOU BY NAME

A service of celebration for the
LGBTQIA + Chaplaincy

Preacher:
Revd Canon Jonathan Triffitt -
Dean of Bradford Cathedral

Everybody more than welcome



ST JOHN'S - MENSTON

Harvest Festival

Giving thanks for God's good gifts with praise, love and generosity!

Everyone Together

Sun 4th Oct 10:30 am
Followed by a bring and share lunch

Please bring a food offering to share for lunch

We are raising funds for Mercy UK - a local Christian mental health charity. Please give generously.

<https://www.mercyuk.org/donate>

I Have Called You By Name

On Sunday 11 October at 4.00pm we are hosting a very special diocesan service to which everyone is invited and welcome.

'I have called you by name' is a service of celebration for the establishing of a diocesan chaplaincy service to people of the LGBTQIA + community.

Back in June, Andrew was licensed by Bishop Toby to fill this role for the Leeds Diocese. At this service we will be thanking God for the vision, and praying that as a diocese we might be encouraged to live a more welcoming and

inclusive life for all people. The preacher at the service will be Revd Canon Jonathan Triffitt, who is the Dean of Bradford Cathedral.

We hope that this service will be well supported across the diocese but that as a local community we here at St John's can offer a very warm welcome.

Please, if you are able, remember the work of the chaplaincy in your prayers, and, especially if you are able, come along to what promises to be a very special service.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION RESULTS!

♦ Nature at it's best



1st - Thank you God
Striking composition of an
awesome sight.
Fiona Johnson



3rd - Furry Friend
Amazing, fearsome
looking creature!
Steve Feathers



2nd - Little Owl (N Yorks)
Utterly charming.
Paul Maddy

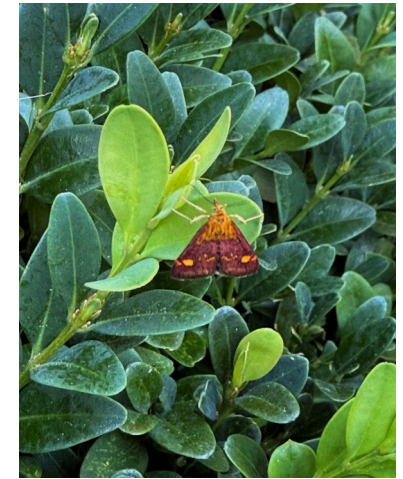


Highly commended
Signalling an eclipse.
James Sheppard

♦ Wonder in Menston



1st - marigold and bee
Perfectly focused, excellent
example of nature.
Janet Kitching



**2nd - Thumbnail size moth
on a box plant**
Impressive to capture photo
of this moth with such
clarity and contrast.
Lennox Towers

**3rd - Tree peony in my
garden** Very exotic! Would be
proud to have in our gardens.
Dorothy Slater



♦ **The Need for Change**



1st - 'Pick it up!' Johnson Canyon, Canada
All too common litter captured, clearly *Max Glenwright*



2nd - A call to care for God's creation
Sad reflection on our throw-away society. *Sebastian Bent*

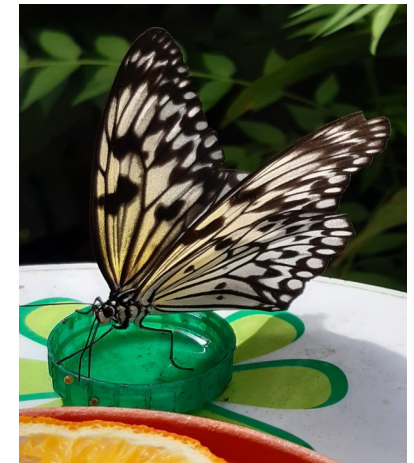


3rd - Melting Athabasca Glacier, Canada
Stark reminder of the huge impact of humans on the planet. *Elsa Glenwright*

♦ **Miraculous Design – close-ups of detail and wonder in God's Creation.**



1st - Tulip flower
A wonderful every day example of miraculous design. *Paul Maddy*



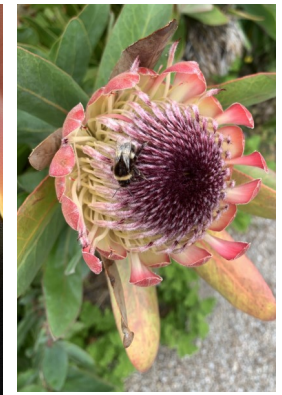
2nd - Thirsty work!
Stunning detail, difficult shot to capture. *Steve Feathers*



3rd - Hung in suspension
Amazing detail of an often overlooked creature - designed to confuse? *Sue Wilbraham*



Highly commended
Nature's Jewels
Sue Saul



Highly commended
Bee enjoying lunch on protea
Kathy Roberts

Worship this month

4 Oct	The 18th after TRINITY - HARVEST Readings: Genesis 1: 26-31; Matthew 6: 24-34 Reader: <i>David Mercer</i>
9.30am	Zest
10.30am	Everyone Together
11 Oct	The Nineteenth Sunday after TRINITY Readings: Philippians 4: 1-9; Matthew 22: 1-14 Reader: <i>Ros Wilkinson</i>
9.30am	Zest with Communion
11.00am	Parish Eucharist
4.00pm	A service of celebration for the LGBTQIA+ Chaplaincy
18 Oct	LUKE the EVANGELIST Readings: 2 Timothy 4: 5-17; Luke 10: 1-9 Reader: <i>Colin Alexander</i>
9.30am	Zest
11.00am	Parish Eucharist
3-4.30pm	IGNITE / FIREWORKS
25 Oct	The Last Sunday after TRINITY Readings: 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8; Matthew 22: 34-end Reader: <i>Wendy Thornhill</i>
9.30am	Zest
11.00am	Parish Eucharist
4.00pm	Service of Healing & Wholeness, Laying on of Hands
1 Nov	ALL SAINTS' DAY / ALL SOULS' DAY Readings: Revelation 7: 9-end; Matthew 5: 1-12 Reader: <i>Adele Maddy</i>
9.30am	Zest
11.00am	Parish Eucharist
4.00pm	Remembering Together Those We Love - <i>see page 9</i>
MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION	
9.30am	Thursdays: 1 / 8 / 15 / 22 / 29 October; 5 November

THE LIGHT STOP

When ~ Saturday 31 October 5-7pm

Where ~ Corner of school grounds at junction of St Peter's Way and Main Street.

What ~ Serving hot drinks, sharing small gifts, collecting donations for Otley Food Bank and providing large bins for litter.

Halloween has, in many cases, led to an excess in buying and consuming sweets, along with creating additional littering during the evening. As Christians we are often challenged to think; **What Would Jesus Do** - and THE LIGHT STOP is our way of placing Jesus in the heart of our village. We hope to address the over-consumption of sweets by asking Trick-or-treaters to share their sweets with the Otley Food Bank, and to deposit their litter in the bins provided.

Remembering Together Those We Love Sunday 1 November 4pm

Names of all whose funerals have been held at St John's in the last two years will automatically be read out during the service. If you would like to add a name please fill in the list at the back of church, leave a message at 01943 872433 or email office@stjohnmenston.org.uk by

Wednesday 28 October.

Any names given after this date may be at risk of not being read out.