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PARISH CHURCH  
St John the Divine



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*18 - 19 September*



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## What's happening about the roof?

### Current state of the Roof Appeal

<b>Funds raised</b>	<b>as at 27/7/21</b>
Trusts & Foundations	2,000
Congregational giving	55,799
Community giving	8,246
Fundraising events	9,510
Gift Aid claimed	13,373
<b>Reserves</b>	
Reserves(restricted Fabric fund)	20,000
	<b>108,928</b>

We feel this is an extraordinary result. Many thanks to all donors and fundraisers.

We are still awaiting the outcome of 4 grant applications, but the currently available funds has given us enough confidence to be able to seek tenders for the roof replacement and repairs.

We await the receipt of tenders and, hopefully, positive outcomes to the outstanding grant applications, so that we can decide exactly how much of the proposed work can be undertaken.

**so – Watch This Space**

This month	P10	Menston MU news
P6	A View from the Pews	P11-13 150th Celebrations
P7	Prayer Points	P17 Climate Action Menston
P8	Update on Worship	p18 Children's page

Copy for the OCTOBER magazine is due by  
**Sunday 12 September.** 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

On 19 July the national Covid restrictions changed. Many of the demands placed upon us became effectively optional, making us responsible for our own choices. Some of us are confident in our new-found freedom, others less so. Some still live with deep anxiety for their own safety or that of others.

How should we, as a church family, navigate such times?

This is, of course, not the place to rehearse all the changes to practical procedures around church (see parish notes, emailed distribution and our website), but I wanted to give some of the theological reflection surrounding my own thinking when we looked at the transitional arrangements that have been put in place. These transitional measures will change again as situations develop and as people continue to adapt.

I believe 1 Corinthians 8-9 provides significant reflection as we transition through Covid relaxations. It addresses an early Christian transition concerning Jewish food laws that threatened to split the church. This passage can easily be misused, but I think there are useful and valid lessons for us.

Firstly, Paul starts by contrasting 'knowledge' and 'love' (8:1). There were people who were confident to throw off Jewish food restrictions, claiming a greater understanding of the theology and the situation than others. Whichever way we choose to apply that to our current situation (where some of us are more confident with the reduced restrictions and others more cautious) for Paul, 'knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.' Whatever we think we know, responding in mutual love is the road to building each of us up in the family of Christ.

In 8:9, Paul cautions that 'this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block.' He talks obliquely about needing to pay attention to our consciences. Some of us may revel in the freedom from restrictions, whereas others may, because of worries for their own safety or through concerns of conscience for the safety of others, be more cautious. Paul's is a hard message for some, but bluntly, freedom



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cannot become something which causes others to fall. In our church's transitional arrangements, one example of this is our continued recommendation to wear masks. For some of us, this will be comforting, for others it will be an act of self-giving service to others so that none face the 'stumbling block' of feeling unable to attend worship.

This is further emphasised in 8:13. For Paul, 'if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.' This is a specific argument from a particular time, but it shows how far Paul is willing to go to accommodate the consciences and concerns of those who he may even believe to be mistaken, so as to not risk causing anyone to suffer in their faith.

Then in 9:19-23, Paul proclaims his personal freedom, but explains that he chooses to operate within certain restrictions at certain times for the sake of the gospel.

For us, at least in our period of transitional arrangements, I believe that Paul's example has much to teach us. Love trumps knowledge. Self-giving for others trumps personal liberty. The gospel trumps all other concerns. In this time of transition, our PCC have chosen a path that will enable those who are concerned about the ending of restrictions to feel welcome and secure as they worship. We, I hope, have also taken steps towards normality, and will continue to make appropriate steps as time goes on.

Being honest, there are limits to the parallels with this reading in 1 Corinthians and our current situation, but I hope that during this difficult period of transition, we will each be able to emulate Paul's generous self-giving of love for each other.

After all, Paul is simply emulating Christ himself, who voluntarily took upon himself the restrictions of humanity, and suffered the further restrictions of imprisonment and felt the chains of death wrap around him; all for the sake of us who otherwise have no claim to heavenly freedom.

**Steve**

## A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

At this time of year, I like to immerse myself in as much coverage of the BBC Proms as I can find. Watching and listening to world class musicians playing sublime music calms, refreshes and invigorates my soul. One of the more interesting side effects is that I listen to the presenters and commentators and often repeat what they say so that I might give the impression that I know what I am talking about! One of the key phrases, it seems, is to express appreciation for the gaps between the notes, 'What makes such and such a composer so remarkable is how they give reverence to the silence.'

I was sitting in church a few Sundays ago, quietly waiting for the service to start when I became aware of the hubbub as people shared the stories of their week. It was lovely to watch people delight in the simple joy of community and to share news both good and bad with friends and neighbours. At a couple of minutes to the hour a hush descended as people began to reflect more intimately and personally on their experiences of the previous seven days.

The juxtaposition of sound and silence is a profound part of the human experience. The one cannot exist without the other. What we do in these moments of noise and quiet helps us to understand our place in the world. We are, as I have said before, social beings and the noise is necessary to remind us that we exist, we belong, we are welcome into the lives of others. The moments of quiet reflection provide, for me at least, a chance to understand our position as something beyond mere earthly existence.

The quiet before the church service begins and at other stolen moments in the week, enables us to remember those known to us but no longer among us. It gives us space to think about what we have done, what we could do and what we should do. These moments 'between the notes' are valuable as we can still the world and take time to talk with a creator who has our genuine best interests at heart.

Too often, it seems, people are living in a world of noise. Be that from colleagues, family, friends or the constant sounds of the human world. The meditative quality to the minutes before the service, and those moments in the service such as the Confession or the prayers, present to us an opportunity to round out our human experience. To embrace and use the silence and allow us for a moment or two to think of something deeper in the eternity of our existence.

## NOTICE BOARD

### Dear Friends

Thank you so much for your lovely letters, cards and calls. They have helped us all so much during this sad time.

Tony would have been so touched by the things you

said about him. Tony's faith in Jesus was very real to him and it never wavered.

He has been taken home.  
All my love,

*Diane Beaumont*

Our next Roof Appeal fundraising event

### *'Nostalgia Night'*

featuring local band *Time Warp* ~ live music from the 50s, 60s, 70s and later.

**Saturday 30 October - 7.30pm**  
**Kirklands Community Centre**

Tickets £12 include a pie and pea supper,  
raffle and bar from 879290 / 872433.

## FROM THE REGISTERS

**FUNERAL SERVICES** *We commend into the hands of Almighty God:*

3 August            Tony Beaumont

10 August           Ann Oliver



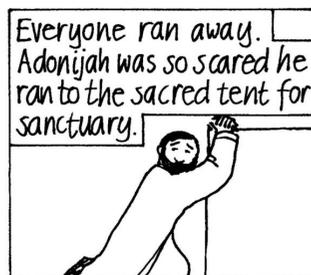
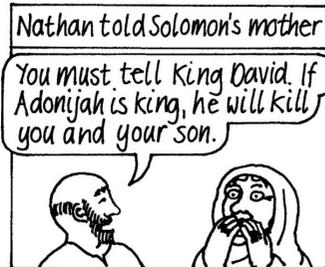
# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

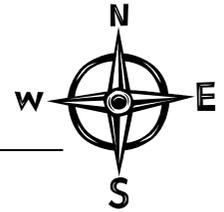
It can be read in the Bible in  
1 Kings 1: 5-53

King David was now very old, but he had still not said which son would be king. Adonijah decided to make himself king.

Adonijah had a big party at Rogel Spring for all his friends, including Joab and Abiathar, to tell them he was the king. His brother Solomon and Nathan and Zadok were not invited.



# Prayer Points



*There are currently 26 million refugees around the world, half of which are children. They have been forced from their homes by conflict, persecution, disasters such as floods and drought, and extreme poverty. Many will have been separated from loved ones; many will be traumatised and grieving.*

*We pray for all refugees remembering especially at this time those fleeing from an uncertain future in Afghanistan.*

Almighty and merciful God,  
whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own;  
look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger,  
homeless and hungry.  
Bless those who work to bring them relief;  
and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all  
will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord Jesus,  
give us more of your compassion for their plight,  
soften our hearts to their situation,  
and help us follow your lead in seeking justice and mercy  
on their behalf.

We pray for an end to the wars, poverty and human rights  
abuses that drive desperate people to become refugees  
in the first place.

*If we cannot have compassion upon refugees, we cannot call ourselves Christians. If we do not help refugees, we cannot call ourselves the Church.*

*With thanks to Jan Alexander for this month's Prayer Points*

## UPDATE TO OUR WORSHIP PATTERNS

With the latest changes in Covid restrictions, many of the things we have become used to in the way we live are now technically optional and many of the procedures that we have to follow as we are out and about have been scrapped. The PCC have looked carefully at what we should now do at church, based on scientific evidences, case numbers, and guidance from the Diocese and the Church of England. As a result, from 15 August there will be a set of transitional arrangements in place governing services. These will seek to enable more freedom whilst at the same time creating safe spaces for those who do not yet feel able to embrace these for whatever reason. As a church family, we love each other, and an expression of that love is that we look after each other, even if we disagree.

- We will continue to recommend the wearing of face masks/coverings. We recognise that this is uncomfortable, but for those who can we intend to honour and value each other by putting others ahead of our own discomfort. This is not mandatory or legally required. It is a voluntary act of service to our family. Those who are exempt from mask wearing should continue to feel no guilt or judgment.
- Singing will be reinstated at services.
- There will be no coffee between services yet. This will be reviewed in September.
- Track and Trace monitoring will continue. It is voluntary, but is an important tool in keeping the village and each other safe.
- Maximum ventilation will continue through the opening of windows and doors where possible and safe.
- We will continue to use the Parish Room for overflow if the church becomes too busy.
- We will continue to use the screens instead of encouraging the handling of paper service books and hymn books. This will be kept under review.
- The church will be reopened during the day for private prayer on all days that we are able to staff the opening and closing.

## Climate Action Menston - update

### Great Big Green Week 18th - 26th September

Climate Action Menston will be promoting the Great Big Green Week which is a national initiative to celebrate action that is already being taken on climate change by local communities and to raise the profile of the issue prior to the COP 26 conference in Glasgow in November.

CAM [climateactionmenston.org.uk/](http://climateactionmenston.org.uk/) are hoping that local organisations will join with them in promoting sustainable living initiatives so we are hoping to have the chance to try e bikes; learn about bike repairs; try vegan cakes; promote waste free living; join local walks; make bird boxes etc.

The first weekend coincides with St John's 150th anniversary and we are planning a display looking ahead to 'what next' with a focus on the climate emergency. There are lots of opportunities to get involved, so do get in touch.

Marilyn Banister [marilyn@banisters.org.uk](mailto:marilyn@banisters.org.uk).

### Airport

Now that flights have picked up again from LBA, the noise and flight path issues are more noticeable. Planes should be flying along the line of the old Otley - Burley railway line before they turn but often they cut the corner. If this is affecting you, the LBA can be contacted as follows:-  
Online noise complaint form: <https://www.leedsbradfordairport.co.uk/about-leeds-bradfordairport/our-responsibility/airport-noise>  
By telephone (automated phone line): 0113 391 1625  
By Letter to: Environmental Manager Leeds Bradford Airport  
Whitehouse Lane Leeds LS19 7TU

### Main Street

Following the trial of the wider pavements and give/take for vehicles outside the primary school, BMDC are planning a consultation on the details of the scheme soon! Watch out for further news!

### Sustainable business scheme

Steve set up the sustainable business scheme with CAM and now the award stickers are on show in various shops/businesses in the village. They have pledged to take steps to have less impact on the planet. Please look out for them and give your support!

## Loving in Love and Faith

Following the various pieces in the magazine over the last few months, the Deanery is gearing up to run a course or courses locally or remotely depending on preferences.

The course aims to help us to think more deeply about what it means to be human and about how to live in love and faith. All around us we see changing understandings of human identity, changing patterns in relationships and families, changing sexual attitudes and activity. What does it mean for followers of Jesus to walk in love, faith and holiness today?

If you are interested in being part of the process/conversation by joining the five week course in which there is bible teaching, a chance to hear people's stories and discussion time, please do get in touch with me, Andrew or Steve.

To find out more about the project, please go to <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith>.

*Marilyn Banister 874220*

## Eco Church

St John's currently has the Bronze award through the Eco church scheme run nationally by the charity A Rocha for churches in the UK. We self assess various church activities through the scheme under the headings of Worship, Buildings, Land, Community and Global, and Lifestyle.

We are keen to progress to silver or even gold awards but need new people to get involved in making this happen! So if you are keen to help St John's to take small steps to address the climate emergency, do get in touch with Marilyn on 874220 or [marilyn@banisters.org.uk](mailto:marilyn@banisters.org.uk)

More information about the scheme is here: <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

### Specific to the 11am service:

- Continuation of the audio recording of the service for the telephone line in order to provide for those who are housebound and cannot attend in person.
- The service will return to its normal format, rather than giving a break in the middle before communion.
- Altered seating arrangements to enable choice about distancing - the north side of the church will remain a place for social distancing with alternate pews closed, whereas the south side will be less restricted with all pews open.
- There will be the opportunity to have other people doing Bible readings and Intercessions.
- Communion will have altered arrangements, reflecting the north and south aisle distancing decisions. Those on the north side will continue to have a wafer delivered to them by the celebrant, whereas those on the south side will be offered the chance to received communion at the altar rail, giving space for each other. The celebrant will continue to use mask and gloves, but will no longer wear a visor.

### Specific to the Zest service:

- We shall return to interactive prayers and confessions, use of shared materials with the exception of those using airborne transmission eg bubble-blowing.
- Craft and colouring items no longer quarantined and will be shared freely. One or two distanced tables will be kept.
- The Parish Room will be used for discussions again.
- Online videos of Zest will cease to encourage a return to church and safeguarding of images of children in a free-flow Zest would become impossible.

Thank you in advance for your continuing generosity and grace as we navigate these times.

*Steve*

***Opening-up Meeting***  
***Tuesday 14 September - 2 pm in the Parish Room***

Dear Members

Now that Covid-19 restrictions are lifting everywhere, we are pleased to announce that we can now meet together again as a group. The above meeting has been arranged (please note the date) and we hope that as many members as possible will be able to attend. It will be wonderful to re-connect again as friends and take the opportunity to talk about our group, what it means to us, and how we see our future together. This will be the only meeting in September, but we hope to put together a simple programme for two meetings per month until the end of this year.

We have permission to use the kitchen so will provide a light afternoon tea from the hatch. Access to the kitchen will be restricted and there will be an open window. If coming, please be free of Covid-19 symptoms and wear a face covering.

We look forward to seeing you all again!

**Leeds Diocese Update**

It has been announced that our new Diocesan President from January 2022-24 has been elected. She is Elaine Swinhoe, married to Terry, a retired vicar, and lives in Bradley, Huddersfield. Elaine is a retired teacher with three sons and five grandchildren, and has served as Huddersfield Area President since 2016.

At the time of writing, there has been no news regarding a new Bradford Area President to replace Pam Aston. Pam has served for one term of 3 years but is not standing for another term.

We have a new Bradford MU Chaplain however – Revd Pat Smith from Silsden – who was welcomed at the Lady Day Service in Bradford in March. She replaces Revd Bryony Partridge from Oakworth who has moved to Cheshire to be nearer family.

If you have any queries, please get in touch.

*Marjorie Boddy (870924); Ann Dixon (874160)*

**HARVEST OF GIFTS AND TALENTS**  
**A celebration of all the skills we have been given**  
**as well as our usual Harvest Festival**  
**Sunday 26 September**

To celebrate our 150 years we want to include in our Harvest Celebrations an opportunity to say thank you for all the gifts, skills, crafts and talents that we have been blessed with as a church family. Whatever our age we all have things we love to do, and lockdown has given us chance to hone those things - it may be whittling or baking, painting or drawing, junk modelling or knitting, poetry or calligraphy. Whatever gifts you have we want to showcase them in an exhibition and say thank you for our family harvest of talents - as well as supporting our local food bank as usual. So please have a think and fill in a form from the table at the back of church - don't hide you light under a bushel! (or a bucket!!!).

**Bradford North Food Bank**

Once again St John's is supporting the Bradford North branch of the Trussell Trust. Steve has suggested that, as last year, we help the Food Bank with **donations of money only** as some problems associated with the handling of donated items imposed by Covid-19 restrictions remain. There will be a Big Jar at the back of church for cash donations. If you wish to Gift Aid your donation please donate via their website [bradfordnorth.foodbank.org.uk/](http://bradfordnorth.foodbank.org.uk/)  
**Please do not bring any items of food or toiletries.**

The Food Bank provides food parcels to people in crisis in North Bradford / Shipley / Rawdon / Yeadon or Guiseley areas. It has successfully continued to provide support to those most vulnerable in the community, in food poverty, crisis, self isolation or lock-down and in need of emergency food. Our donations are vital to their work, especially now that the large supermarkets are scaling down or stopping donations provided during the first year of Covid-19. Without help they would struggle to give those referred to them a balanced and nutritious three day supply of food.

## Worship this month

**5 Sept** **The Fourteenth Sunday after TRINITY**  
**Readings: Exodus 20; Mark 7: 24-end**  
**Reader: Adele Maddy**

9.30am Zest  
11.00am Parish Eucharist

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**12 Sept** **The Fifteenth Sunday after TRINITY**  
**Readings: Exodus 20; Mark 8: 27-end**  
**Reader: Heather Greig**

9.30am Zest  
11.00am Parish Eucharist

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**19 Sept** **The Sixteenth Sunday after TRINITY**  
**150 years** **Readings: Psalm 1; Mark 9: 30-37**  
**Reader: Geoff Druett**

9.30am Zest  
11.00am Parish Eucharist with Bishop Nick

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**26 Sept** **The Seventeenth Sunday after TRINITY**  
**Harvest** **Readings: 1 Peter 1; Mark 9: 38-end**  
**Reader: Joyce Simpson**

9.30am Zest  
11.00am Parish Eucharist

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**3 Oct** **The Eighteenth Sunday after TRINITY**  
**Readings: 1 Peter 2; Mark 10: 2-16**  
**Reader: Dominic Hall**

9.30am Zest  
11.00am Parish Eucharist

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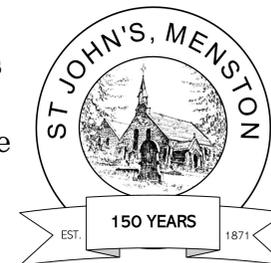
### MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

9.30am *Thursdays: 2 / 9 / 16 / 23 / 30*

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## DIVINE REFLECTIONS 18-19 September

September is finally here! Flower arrangers are busy finalising their ideas of how to display their arrangements. They cover some events which took place in 1871, life in mid-Victorian Menston, verses from St John's Gospel. Others depict milestones and highlights in the rich and varied life of St John's over its 150 years. Hopefully, an attractive mix with something to interest everyone. Read Andrew's reflections on how we might view the arrangements - *p12*.



### Sponsorship

Thank you to all who have so generously sponsored flower arrangements or donated towards the cost of staging this 2-day event. I think that all our costs are covered and all profits will go towards the roof appeal.

### Stewarding

Could you act as a steward for the Flower Festival for an hour and a half? As well as offering a warm welcome to St John's it would involve selling programmes and making sure people circulate around the building in the right direction. A rota is on the table at the back of church.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY** can you please publicise the Festival weekend by encouraging friends, family, neighbours to come along to St John's and view the many differing aspects of our commemoration of the events of the last 150 years in the life of St John's Church. Small fliers are available for you to deliver to neighbours or place in your car window perhaps.

*Jan Alexander; Judith Knaggs*

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## BEHOLDING ~ LOOKING AT 'THINGS'

I wonder how you look at things?

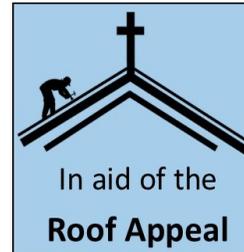
Familiarity breeds contempt so they say, certainly we stop seeing things when we are used to looking at them. With art we are quick to judge its value based on our own likes and dislikes, styles, colours or genre. Here in Yorkshire we tend to *'know what we like!'*

But there is an invitation that goes deeper than like or dislike. The invitation is to *'behold'*. Many of Gods interventions in the Bible are prefaced with the word *'behold'* often as a command, possibly as an invitation to do something different. To have a different look at what is presented to us. In a few weeks' time you will be invited to come along and behold our Anniversary Flower Festival. *'Divine Reflections'*. It comes as an invitation to expect to see things from a different side.

To start *beholding* is to open ourselves up to a sense of utter gratitude, to be open to awe and wonder, be it a view, a sunset, a thunderstorm, a painting or a floral arrangement. To be set free from the filter of whether we like it or not, to see something different. *Beholding* happens when we stop trying to 'hold' and instead just allow ourselves to *'be held'* by something bigger than us. To be enchanted by something outside and beyond ourselves. Perhaps it makes more sense to talk of *'beholding'* because what I'm talking about is being in that moment where we are being held rather than holding, explaining or understanding anything by ourselves.

So I invite you to try a spot of *'beholding'*, either something in your home that you have stopped noticing, or something outside, I don't think you will be disappointed. Find a bit of ordinary beauty, a picture, a sculpture, a view, and gaze at it until you see it as an instance of the creative beauty of God. Without wanting to sound weird let your beholding move beyond its relative truth and to reveal its inherent dignity. Putting our interference to one side it becomes an epiphany, and the walls of our world start to expand. Once you can do it with something ordinary, imagine what you will make of our Flower Festival. I hope and pray that it might truly become for you, *'Divine Reflections'*.

*Andrew*



## Menston Parish Church *'Divine Reflections'*

***A festival of flowers celebrating  
150 years of church life in Menston***



**Saturday 18 September ~ 10am - 5.30pm**

**Sunday 19 September ~ 12.30 - 5.30pm**

**Admission free. Programme £2.**

**Refreshments: Saturday 10 - 12; 2 - 4pm**

**Sunday: 2 - 4pm**