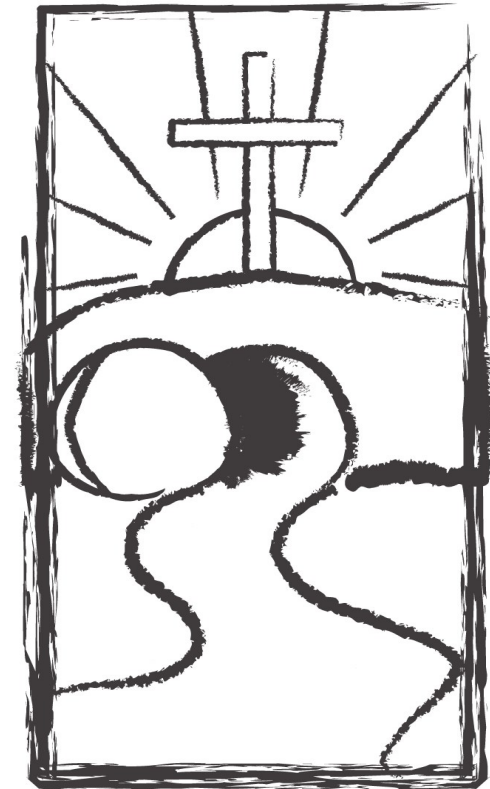


2023

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Excellent references available.

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

THANK YOU and CAN YOU HELP?

A very big thank you to Charmian and Roger Thomas who have been distributing bundles of the latest Parish Magazine to those who deliver magazines to nearby properties since September 2015. They have decided that now is the time to step down from this important role within the magazine team. In addition they have also created and regularly updated a database of all those who receive the magazine - an invaluable aid.

We are looking for someone new to take on this task. A detailed job specification is available from Charmian but it essentially involves one or two people, with a vehicle, about 2 hours once a month, ten times a year. If you would be willing to consider it, please have a word with Charmian in the first instance - 01943 873865.



This month		
	P18	PCC news
P6	A View from the Pews	P19 Menston MU news
P7	Prayer Points	p20 Bible Bites
P9	Andrew calling!	P21 Coronation Concert
P10/11	APCM/Electoral Roll	P23 Notices

Copy for the MAY magazine is due by **Sunday 16 April**. 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 really enjoying reading the book of Judges in the Old Testament section of the Bible recently. For those of you who have never read it, you should have a look – it's just the right blend of moral lessons, theology and Horrible Histories! The series of flawed characters provides both hope and warning for us: hope that God can use us even though we are imperfect; warning that it's easy to get carried away with our own importance.

In particular, the story of Gideon charts the course of a man who saves the Israelites from the armies of Midian. It starts with Gideon questioning why God has allowed his people to be oppressed, before daringly, and under the cover of darkness, he tears down all the artefacts of worship to the other gods of the day. This lands him in big trouble from which he is saved by his father. Gideon raises an army to repel the Midianites, but only after famously checking and re-checking with God. His large army is whittled down to only 300 men who experience God's deliverance from the oppressing enemy. He then takes some revenge on allies who didn't help him, gets vengeance for the lives of his slain family (whilst trying to make his son take the revenge instead of him), and becomes the ruler of the Israelites. Then he creates a golden ephod that ironically people start to worship instead of God.

There is so much good in the story. Yet at the end, the same man who tore down idols, creates one. The same man who sought to defend his people from oppression, becomes a man of bloody vengeance. The same man who sought



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God's repeated guidance and who celebrated God's victory seems to forget God once he gains power. His lasting legacy becomes a bloodthirsty massacre of his own family and a country that turns away from God as soon as he is gone. It's a sad tale.

Why am I telling you it, you may ask? Partly, it's to encourage you to read your Bible and discover its treasure for yourself. But also it's because there's so many little parallels that exploring these stories raise for our own faith and understanding of God – like the times where we wrestle between trust and doubt, when we pray in times of trouble but forget when things are going well, and when we easily make other things our idols, even if they are the very things that can remind us of a Godly past.

At Eastertime, it is easy to forget, amidst the cross and resurrection of Jesus, that we are flawed characters too. It is the same tendency to forget God, worship the wrong things, take revenge when we are slighted, that mean that we are among those who need the forgiveness that Easter brings and the salvation that God provides. Thankfully, like with Gideon in the book of Judges, God saves his people even when we don't deserve it.

Steve



MCS

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Chris Has Retired

And would like to thank all those who have
supported her business over these years

Thank You

A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

In my class last week two of my learners had a fight. This is, perhaps surprisingly for a prison, a mercifully rare occurrence. The following day, when the dust had settled, I asked one of them what the fight was about. He was in tears as he told me the other chap had insulted his family – a family he has not seen in four years and a father who is currently receiving end of life care.

I don't tell this story to create a sense of 'poor him'. Being in prison is a consequence of the actions he has taken. I tell the story mainly to highlight a couple of very human traits. We are, at times, bewilderingly cruel. There is never a justification for speaking ill of another's family or personal life. We do not know, cannot know, the lives of others or the way they experience them, and compassion and empathy are important tools in our locker.

We can also be terribly vulnerable. The young man I spoke with might appear to strangers as a tough and cocky type. When talking about his family and the lack of contact he immediately became a scared little boy who just wants a hug from his mum.

The incident got me thinking about the need for all of us to pursue a path of understanding. In

Harper Lee's 'To Kill A Mockingbird' Atticus reminds his children that you can't judge others "until you put on their skin and walk around for a while." It's good advice and perhaps needed now more than ever.

You might recall in mid-February the terrifying scenes outside an hotel in Liverpool that was housing asylum seekers. A baying mob had a run-in with the police, vehicles were set alight and people were hurt. Mercifully, those inside the hotel were physically unharmed, though I shudder to think how terrified they must have been. If only there were loud, compassionate voices encouraging people not to judge but to listen; not to hit but to hug; not to hate but to love.

What makes someone pay large sums of money to a person they have never met, get in a flimsy boat and make the perilous trip across the Channel eludes me. That they would leave their family not knowing when or even if they will see them again is something I find astoundingly brave. I doubt I could do it. I think that it shows the best of us when we meet them not with hard faces and harsh words but with understanding and kindness and maybe a blanket and a hot drink.

Calling all Crafters!

First Sunday of the month in the Parish Room 10.15 - 11am.

*Next craft stall: **Sunday 2 April.***

Can you knit, paint, stitch, bake or create something we can sell on the stall? The more the merrier! Please give your items to Angela St John, Sue Lee or Andrew. We need your help!!

Proceeds to church funds.

FROM THE REGISTERS

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

8 March

Kenneth Parker (Rawdon) R.I.P.

Light Up St John's – Floodlight Sponsorship

16 April Treasured memories of my beloved husband

21 & 22 April For my husband, remembered every day.

Now that the dark winter nights have arrived this is 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

All in the month of APRIL

100 years ago, on 15 April 1923 insulin became generally available for the treatment of diabetes.

60 years ago, on 16 April 1963 the American civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jnr. wrote his famous 'Letter from Birmingham Jail' while imprisoned in Alabama. He stated that the Black community was forced to protest when the white power structure left them no choice.

30 years ago, on 30 April 1993, CERN, the creators of the World Wide Web, announced that it could be used for free by anyone. That decision has shaped the modern world as we know it. .

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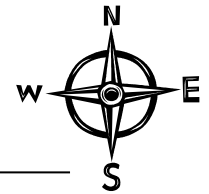
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Prayer Points



For patience

You keep us looking, Lord,
You, the God of all space
Want us to look in all the right and wrong places
For signs of hope,
For people who are hopeless,
For visions of a better world which will appear
Among the disappointments in the world we know.
So thank you Lord for the looking time.

You keep us waiting, Lord,
You the God of all time,
Want us to wait
For the right time in which to discover
Who we are, where we must go,
Who will be with us and what we must do.
So thank you ;Lord for the waiting time.

You keep us loving, Lord,
You whose name s love
Want us to be like you –
To love the loveless, the unlovely and the unlovable.
To love without jealousy, design or threat;
And most difficult of all, to love ourselves.
So thank you Lord for the loving time.

And in all this you keep us,
Through hard questions with no easy answers;
Through failing where we hope to succeed
And making an impact where we felt useless;
Through the patience, the dreams and the love of others ;
Through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit
You keep us.
So thank you for time, now and for ever. Amen

From the Iona Community

With thanks to Wendy Thornhill for this month's Prayer Points

Salvador Mundi Via Crucis

*Maybe He looked indeed
much as Rembrandt envisioned Him
in those small heads that seem in fact
portraits of more than a model.
A dark, still young, very intelligent face,
A soul-mirror gaze of deep understanding, unjudging.
That face, in extremis, would have clenched its teeth
In a grimace not shown in even the great crucifixions.
The burden of humanness (I begin to see) exacted from Him
That He taste also the humiliation of dread,
cold sweat of wanting to let the whole thing go,
like any mortal hero out of his depth,
like anyone who has taken herself back.
The painters, even the greatest, don't show how,
in the midnight Garden,
or staggering uphill under the weight of the Cross,
He went through with even the human longing
to simply cease, to not be.
Not torture of body,
not the hideous betrayals humans commit
nor the faithless weakness of friends, and surely
not the anticipation of death (not then, in agony's grip)
was Incarnation's heaviest weight,
but this sickened desire to renege,
to step back from what He, Who was God,
had promised Himself, and had entered
time and flesh to enact.
Sublime acceptance, to be absolute, had to have welled
up from those depths where purpose
Drifted for mortal moments.*

By Denise Levertov



CELEBRATE THE



King's Coronation

WITH THE

fairfax singers

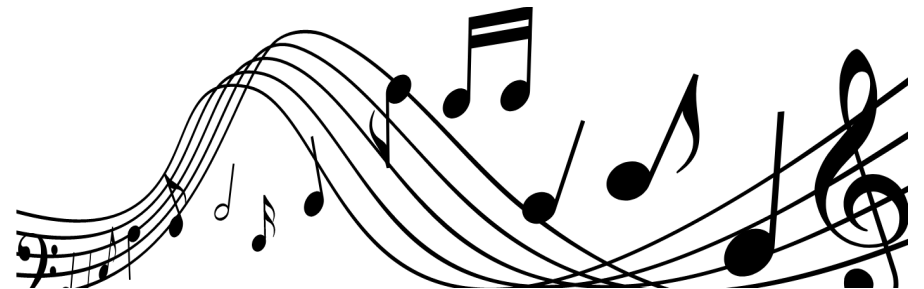
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TICKETS £10 FROM ANDREW HOWORTH
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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 21:1-11, Mk 11:1-11, Lk 19:28-38, Jn 12:12-19

Thousands of people went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover feast each year. This year Jesus and his friends went too.

Two miles outside Jerusalem Jesus said to two of his friends



If anyone asks, say 'The Lord needs it.'



and they found it as Jesus had said



The Lord needs it.



They brought it back to Jesus, and made a saddle from a cloak.



They spread more cloaks on the road to make it a way fit for a king.



Others cut palm branches and waved them.

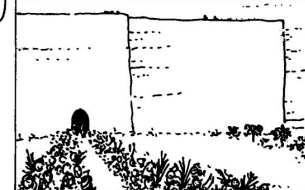


They shouted the traditional welcome to the Passover feast

God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!



As they got closer to Jerusalem the crowd grew.



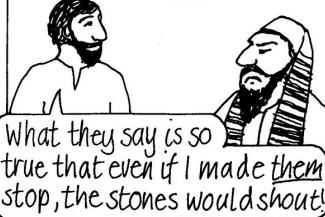
Everyone shouted to welcome Jesus as king



The teachers of the laws were angry



But Jesus replied



CAN YOU HELP?

As a Church Family we can have lots of fun joining together in social events and at the same time raise very useful funds to keep our work on track.

We don't want to do what so often happens - the same few faces are trapped for ever washing up in the kitchen or stuck behind a stall somewhere.

Equally, rotas are terrible things that often plague groups, simply because there too many.

So, having asked you last month to think about whether there are things that you could do to help we are asking for a number of people to form a social group for April 2023-April 2024. This group will oversee the different exciting fun events, help to get things in the diary, and recruit people to join in for a specific event.

Andrew has agreed to co-ordinate the group but needs another four people. We will probably meet online and certainly no more than once a month (not even that unless needed) but we will have fun, think the impossible, turn silly ideas into fun events and hopefully find reasons to bring the Church Family together.

Will you join Andrew just for a year (promise!!!). Drop him an email at associate@stjohnmenston.org.uk

Thank you.

Revision of the Electoral Roll 2023

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held on ***Sunday 30 April***.

When you are on the Electoral Roll, you can:

- vote at the meeting to elect PCC members and Deanery representatives;
- you can also raise matters of parochial or general church interest, and
- you can stand for election yourself.

Being on the Roll, enables us to take a full part in the decision-making process of the Church of England which allows the laity to express views on matters that affect us all. Everyone over 16 years, who is baptised and has been a regular 'attender' at services during the past 6 months is eligible to go on the Roll. If you attend St John's regularly and are not on the Roll, please do consider completing an application form.

The revision of the Roll is a rather drawn out process, but it is a legal requirement. The existing Roll will be placed on view at the back of church on **Sundays 19, 26 March and Sunday 2 April**. Application forms will be in the same red folder. Completed forms should be handed to me, or handed in to the Parish Office in an envelope marked with my name by **Sunday 2 April** at the latest.

The revised Roll then will be on view for 3 Sundays – from 9 April. If you have moved during the last year, please check with me that I have your correct address. No new names can be added to the Roll during this interim period i.e. until after the APCM.

If you have any queries, please get in touch.

*Elizabeth Leopold Tel : 879809
Electoral Roll Officer*



This month:

Tues 4 April	2.15pm	Preparation for Easter Service in church
Tues 18 April	2.15pm	Social afternoon in the Parish Room <i>(Theme for discussion to be decided)</i>

At our last meeting on 7 March we were pleased to welcome MU Speaker Mrs Alison Boggie from Baildon who led members in a very peaceful and thought-provoking Lent Meditation, very appropriate for any difficult times which some people may be currently undergoing. Alison is well-known to us, having visited us many times in the past, and it was good to see her again and exchange news about our respective lives and families.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Our recent MU Leeds Diocesan Newsletter, which is distributed to all branches, highlighted a new project – the Mothers' Union Warm Hands Appeal, which keen knitters may like to become involved with, perhaps in time for next winter.

A certain member has been knitting mittens for her local primary school children for several years, as she had found many turned up at school with cold hands and had to wait until their hands warmed up before they could start writing. She is appealing for others to support this project (ready-made gloves or mittens could also be donated) but of course the local school would need to be contacted first to ask if they would appreciate receiving the donations.

MU members were also encouraged to use the following Prayer for the earthquake in Turkey and Syria:-

We pray for the people of Central Turkey and North West Syria, whose lives have been devastated by the earthquake.

Be present, O Lord, our Good Shepherd, to bring comfort, relief, shelter and human kindness.

Shield the people who suffer, console those who are bereaved, prosper the provision of relief, strengthen the work of the emergency teams, and shine your light and hope in the midst of despair.

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon

PCC NOTES

During winter PCC meetings are held on zoom. 14 members were present and we began with prayer in small groups thinking about our joys and challenges.

The PCC is responsible for the oversight of all the church's life. Like many churches, the financial position is still recovering from the Covid lockdowns and the cost-of-living crisis. We pray that there will be a general recovery and our accounts will remain on trend. This will become clearer over the next six months.

Fundraising will be vital if we are to do some of the things that we know need doing. It is a relief to have the roof project finalised but there are still many things which need attention. Having at last secured the refurbishment of our smart lanterns on the main gate posts, the lantern over the front door was found to be unsafe and has gone for repair.

Social activities. We hope to recruit people on an ad-hoc basis to help with social activities – *see p9*. There will be a Coronation Concert on Friday 5 May by the Fairfax Singers (*p21*), and possibly other Coronation activities including an outside service on the stage as was done for the Jubilee. Peter Wilbraham has volunteered to host a Summer Quiz evening, which is always very popular. Promoting the Cake and Craft stall each

month seems to be improving the turnover, but we are always in need of both stock to sell and customers to purchase.

Our Eco group have been busy. The PCC were particularly pleased to hear how our children and young people are engaged with this work. An apple tree has now been planted in the churchyard. A Family Event is to be held on Easter Saturday – volunteers needed. If anyone has any spare pots, please leave them by the Parish Room - they are needed for our planting of vegetables project. The building of Bug Hotels is also on the list. There is to be a visit to the Leeds Recycling centre on 4 April 2023 (no under 16's may attend because of Health and Safety) to find out what happens to all our rubbish *see p17*.

We are planning to create a **notice board** so that people know who is who. Photographs of PCC members are still needed. The Big Screen in church now has additional slides to promote our Charitable Giving and a QR code is available on screen and in the Parish Notes for those who use mobile phones.

As a PCC we continue to think about ways to communicate to both our Church Family and the wider community. If you have any ideas or questions, then do please put them in the Big Question Box at the back of church.

David Mercer

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

Sunday 30 April ~ 11am

To be held in church within a Service of the Word with additional seating in the Parish Room.

AGENDA

- Election of 2 Churchwardens
- Election of 4 Deanery Synod members
Automatically members of PCC
- Election of PCC members:
4 to serve for 3 years
1 to serve for 2 years
- Treasurer's Report

Please think and pray about nominations and whether you are prepared to stand for any of the vacancies.

Please notify the Vicar by Tuesday 25 April, by email or in writing, of any questions you may wish to raise at the meeting.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts will be available on **Sunday 23 April**. Please take one per household and bring with you to the meeting.

St JOHN'S MISSION GIVING IN 2023

National Charity ~ SAMARITANS

I am sure most of you will know of Samaritans and its national profile probably helped it to top the button voting to be the national charity that St John's will support this year.

Samaritans' purpose is to be there for people who are struggling to cope and in times of crisis. This can be people who are having a difficult time as well as those worried about someone else.

They provide a national phone line and want to expand to digital channels such as webchat. They are available 24/7 and want to increase their volunteer capacity and its diversity.

Like most charities, they are impacted by insecure funding and rely on support from people like us.

We are hoping to arrange a speaker from Samaritans so that we can hear more about their work, so watch this space.

Outreach Team

Flowers with Christian connections

There are many plants whose names reflect something of Christianity. Plants with faith links include:

- **Pasque Flower** - *Pulsatilla vulgaris* - thought to be the lilies of the field Jesus pointed to in his Sermon on the Mount.
- **Solomon's Seal** - *Polygonatum multiflorum* - grows in the wild now only in a few places but in many gardens. King Solomon was renowned for his wisdom, composed 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs and built the first temple.
- **Speedwell - Veronica**. When Jesus carried his cross, legend has it that Veronica was the woman in the crowd who offered him her handkerchief. When Jesus handed it back his face was imprinted on the cloth. An old country name for speedwell is 'God's Eye'.

Parish Pump News Service

The Eco Church Group

The Easter Saturday workshop will take place between 10-12 on the 8 April in the Parish Room and outside. Please come prepared to make things - bee hotels; plant things - seeds; and find things - in the churchyard. Aimed at all ages and if you can help, please get in touch.

If you are free on the afternoon of Tuesday 4 April there is a chance to visit the Veolia recycling centre in Leeds. It is a booked visit and we need to be there by 2.20pm and should allow 2 hours. There are a lot of steps and sensible shoes are needed - more details will be given if you intend to come. We plan to go by train and bus. Please contact the team if you want to book a place.

How are you doing with climate pledges - it would be great to talk about it with others. Do let us know how that goes.

For more info on Eco church see Sally, Matthew, Catherine, Jeanne-Claire or Marilyn (874220) or make contact via the Parish office or website. Do join us if you would like to get involved.

Marilyn Banister

Climate Action Menston

Are you interested in where the water goes in and around our local area? The whys and wherefores of flooding? If so, do come along to the next meeting of CAM on Wednesday 19 April at 7.30pm at Kirklands to hear from Charlotte Simons on

"Waterproofing – Natural Flood Management and Sustainable Urban Drainage and the roles they play in slowing the flow of water."

Charlotte works for the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust and lives in Menston and it will be great to hear what she has to say on this important topic.

We will also hear from our various working groups about their climate actions and how you can get involved. Do come along on the 19th. We look forward to seeing you.

If you want to know more please contact Marilyn on 874220 or go to the [Climate Action website](#):

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS

The new magazine advertising year begins with this month's edition. Many of our advertisers have chosen to continue and we thank them most sincerely for their ongoing support for St John's. We thank Andrew Abbiss and Chris Naylor of Menston Catering Services who, after many years of supporting St John's, have said goodbye.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in placing an advert in the magazine please ask them to contact the Parish Office.

If you use the services of any of our advertisers please let them know where you saw their

advert. It all helps to make them feel their support for St John's is worthwhile.

Advertising income for the coming year has raised £871 to date. This is a valuable contribution to magazine income and, together with our 'in-house' collating teams and magazine sales, helps the magazine to run at a profit, contributing much needed income to church funds.

Magazine sales are gradually falling, year by year. Can you help? Persuade a neighbour or friend to take the magazine? Free delivery within Menston. Contact the Parish Office if you can help.

Jan Alexander, Editor

2025 Menston Heritage Group

The group are beavering away finding out about local cup and ring stones, Roman roads and local people's stories in readiness for linking what they have found to a trail around Menston. There is plenty of scope for how we do this and creative ideas are welcome.

We are working with the library to kit out the archive room ready to start processing books, maps etc. and will update once we are a bit further on.

Do get in touch if you are interested in getting involved.

Marilyn Banister 874220

Easter

St John the Divine,
Menston Parish Church

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday 2 April
Zest - 9.30am
Holy Communion - 11am
The 6pm Service - 6pm
The Den - 7pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Tuesday 4 April - 7pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY HOLY COMMUNION

Followed by a vigil
Thursday 6 April - 7pm

SEVEN LAST WORDS

Good Friday, 7 April - 2 - 4pm

EASTER DAY

Zest - 9.30am
Holy Communion - 11am

www.stjohnmenston.org.uk

Worship this month

2 Apr PALM SUNDAY

Readings: Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-end; Matthew 27: 32-61
Reader: Dorothy Slater

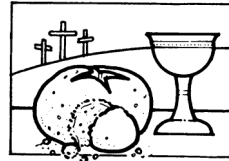
9.30am Zest
 11.00am Parish Eucharist
 6.00pm 6pm Service
 7-8pm The Den



9 Apr EASTER DAY

Readings: Acts 10: 34-43; Matthew 28: 1-10
Reader: Peter Wilbraham

9.30am Zest
 11.00am Parish Eucharist



16 Apr The Second Sunday of EASTER

Readings: Acts 2: 14a, 22-32; John 20: 19-end
Reader: Jane Pratt

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

23 Apr The Third Sunday of EASTER

Readings: Acts 2: 14a, 36-41; Luke 24: 13-35
Reader: Jenny Steele

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

30 Apr The Fourth Sunday of EASTER

Readings: Acts 2: 42-end; John 10: 1-10
Reader: Ros Wilkinson

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

7 May The Fifth Sunday of EASTER

Readings: Acts 7: 55-end; John 14: 1-14
Reader: David Mercer

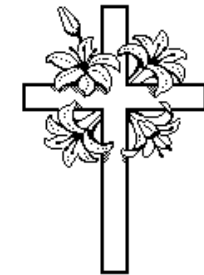
9.30am Zest
 11.00am Parish Eucharist
 6.00pm 6pm Service
 7-8pm The Den

MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

9.30am *Thursdays: 13 / 20 / 27 April NB no 9.30am service on 6 April (Maundy Thursday)*

2023 FLOWER ROTA

The new rota for altar flowers is now in the church porch. Please sign up for your preferred date(s).



EASTER LILIES

Easter Day is *Sunday 9 April*. If you wish to contribute to the lilies which will decorate St John's at Eastertide please put your donation through the **Parish Office** letter box or pass it to a warden on Sunday mornings. Please put the money in a sealed envelope clearly marked '**for Easter Lilies**'.

If you would like to help to decorate the church for Easter Day please come along on **Saturday 8 April - 9.30am** - you will be most welcome. Thank you.

Jan Alexander