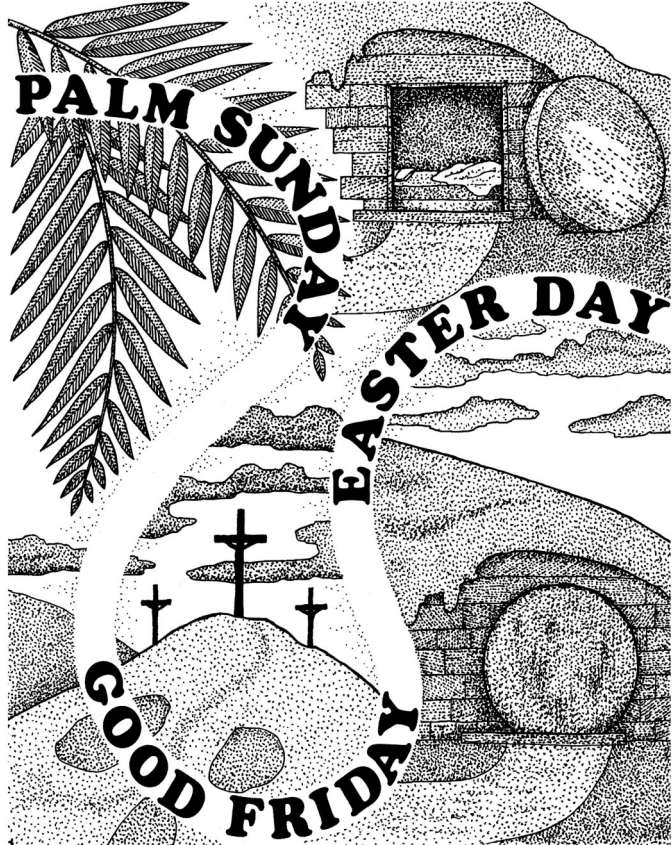


2024

MENSTON
PARISH CHURCH
St John the Divine

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Easter Day
31 March

£1



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Welcome to our Guiseley Clinic.

Traditional Podiatry for treatment of

Nails, hard skin, corns, ingrowing toenails, verrucae, etc

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Sports injuries, running/walking injuries, general foot pain, heel pain, lower back and hip pain, knee pain, children's foot pain, etc.

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Fascial Manipulation is used to restore normal, pain free movement and flexibility of joints, muscles, tendons, nerves, etc. Used in the treatment of sciatica, general hip pain, knee problems, ankle and foot problems and many other conditions. This is not a pain free treatment but the effects can be immediate.

Please visit our website for more information

Contact Kathryn Lindsay BSc(Hons)

Andrew Lindsay BSc(Hons)

Phone 01943 872716

Email info@thefootpeople.co.uk

Website www.thefootpeople.co.uk

WATER AID ~ St John's International Charity for 2024



World Water Day, Friday 22 March, became a UN observance day in 1993. It is held annually on as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. This year, World Water Day 2024 will focus on the theme, 'Leveraging Water for Peace' raising awareness of the 2.2 billion people still living without access to safe water. It hopes to inspire action to tackle the water and sanitation crisis.

Some practical ways in which we can help:

- Save water in obvious ways
- Keep pollutants out of your water
- Eat local
- Protect nature
- Shop for sustainable fashion
- Don't waste food.



This month	
P6	A View from the Pews
P7	Prayer Points
P10	Up for a Challenge?
P11	Easter services
P14	PCC news
p16	Bible Bites
P17	Menston MU news
P18	Eco Church

Copy for the APRIL magazine is due by **Sunday 17 March**. Please email copy to both editor and Parish Office (office@stjohnmenston.org.uk) or leave copy for typing with the office.

Dear Friends

It is an ancient saying in the UK that March ‘comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb’. Scholars have dated this proverb back to at least 1732, where it appeared written in an almanack of ‘wise and witty sayings’. Whatever its origin it is fair to say that the first three months of this year have seen us battered by many different storms and winds. This year also we are a good way through Lent, which is our annual opportunity to deepen our sense of God and put things right in our hearts. By taking advantage of this fasting time which began way back on Ash Wednesday, we are in a good place to celebrate the Joy that Easter brings.

This idea of Challenge followed by Hope, Death followed by Life, Pain followed by Joy, does feel to be a recurrent theme. I guess it links in with the rather mawkish Victorian promise of ‘pie in the sky when you die’. Things can only get better. The danger of all of this of course is that we neglect the here and now. Constantly hoping for something different, or better, means that we either put our lives on hold until tomorrow comes, or we ignore all that we have been given, trusting that one day we will be given more. In Matthew’s gospel we read that Jesus told his disciples, ‘Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don’t get worked up about what might or might not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever comes up, when it happens’. In other words, Jesus was advocating that we live for today and get as much Joy out of it as we can.

An interregnum can feel a little bit like ‘life on hold’, its easy to think ‘well it doesn’t really matter until we’ve got a new priest’. If that is where you are at, can I gently persuade you to look around, to see what is going on, who is doing what.

During a vacancy we never ‘Shut up the Shop’, there is a whole team of people continuing to do all that they did, and all that they can, as we continue to be a living, serving, loving Church, here in Menston. You are part of that community right now, and you have a place, a role, maybe even a vocation.

As well as being a time of waiting and preparation, Lent gives us an active time to do all kinds of things - spiritual spring cleaning, study and reading, praying, and serving. Looking forward is important obviously, but not at the cost of missing the now stuff. So if you are starting to rest on your laurels, don’t miss out on what God is doing here, today, for you, and if you are one of those who are still loyally serving and keeping the show on the road, God bless you, and a heart felt thank you for all the ways that you live out your discipleship.

As I am writing this, I am days away from my much anticipated surgery. I can’t thank people enough for their care and concern, and for their love and practical help. I can’t help thinking about what tomorrow will look like. So, as ever, I take a very large dose of my own medicine, and see all around promises of God’s goodness and activity, not in the future but in the now.

God bless all your activities and busy-ness this Lent, and know that God will deal with whatever might happen...when it comes!

God bless.

Andrew

A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

We are now in the middle of Lent, one of the seasons where we are asked to reflect on our Christianity and indeed our humanity.

We try during this period to, in the smallest of ways, emulate Jesus in the wilderness – rejecting temptation and overcoming the Devil.

In Lent we are also encouraged to think about our place in the world and how we treat the people with whom we come into contact. What impact we have on the lives of others says much about who we are and how we live a Christian life.

I have recently finished reading ‘Love From The Pink Palace’ by Jill Nalder. Jill was a star of the West End stage in the early 1990s. At this time, many of her friends and colleagues fell victim to the AIDS epidemic. She could have sat by and watched, attending friends’ funerals, feeling sorry for her loss and the pain of others. However, Jill did not do this. Instead, she decided she would join the fight – for dignity, for justice, for hope. She organised charity concerts and revues collecting money to be used to cover the cost of treatment and care. She advocated for those who had no voice. She visited and comforted the lonely, the sick, the dying and the bereaved. She did all this in and amongst the auditions, training, rehearsals and performance that were her day job.

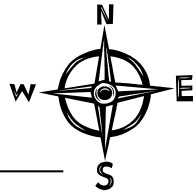
Jill is an example of a core Christian message – use the talents you have been given to make a difference in the world. Be a force for change and a force for good.

To paraphrase President John F Kennedy, ‘Ask not what others can do for you; ask what you can do for others.’

It is a sentiment and a message that should bind us as Christians and as humans. In Lent, we would do well to ask how giving up chocolate, sweets, cakes or alcohol for six weeks, beneficial as that may be for ourselves, projects that Christian message? Making these ‘sacrifices’ is well and good but looking out for others, taking on helpful tasks or making small, manageable and sustainable changes better reflects the way in which we can help ease suffering and hardship in the world.

This should, of course, be more than a Lenten task and should shape the way we behave the whole year round. Lent is a good place to reflect on what we can do and is an excellent starting point for making those changes and determining how to be better Christians every day.

Prayer Points



A prayer for Mothering Sunday:

Loving God,

Thank you for mums and children
and for all the joy of family life.

Be with those who are grieving because they have no mother;
Be close to those who are struggling because they have no children;
Be near to those who are sad because they are far apart from those
they love.

Let your love be present in every home,
And help your church to have eyes to see and ears to hear the
needs of all who come.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A prayer for Good Friday

Dear Lord, we remember the sacrifice you made us for on this day.

We are grateful for your love and mercy,
and we pray that you continue to guide us on our journey.

Help us to be kind and compassionate to others,
and to always remember the lessons you taught us.

Amen

A prayer for Easter Day

Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace
of Easter Sunday, everyday.

Let us have hearts of thankfulness
for your sacrifice.

Let us have eyes that look upon your grace
and rejoice in our salvation.

Help us to walk in that mighty grace
and tell your good news to the world.

All for your glory do we pray Lord.

Amen

With thanks to Hilary Feathers for this month's Prayer Points

HAPPY MUSICAL MEMORIES!

I always find the articles written by Dominic Hall very interesting but none more so than the one in the February magazine. It brought back so many memories.

I first played the organ for a service in Lent 1962. All the priests I have worked with were entirely different but all showed support and help and very importantly, friendship.

With huge help from Maurice, because the children were very young, I went on a residential course at Addington Palace, outside London, the headquarters of The Royal School of Church Music, and learnt much about Choral Evensong.

When I officially became organist and choirmaster I took the choir boys, and later girls, to Bradford Cathedral to be examined for their ribbons.

As a reward, when they passed the exam we stopped at Harry Ramsdens on the way home for fish and chips! They are obviously adults now with families of their own but I hope they will always remember the love of traditional Church Music. It is the voice of all joy and sorrow, it needs no translation.

It was always a huge privilege to play the organ and worship God through my gift of music.

Margaret E Harvey



Revision of the Electoral Roll 2024

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held on *Sunday 28 April*.

This year's APCM will be held on Sunday 28 April and the Electoral Roll must be updated – or, revised, before then. This is the final 'revision' before a new Roll is drawn up next year, so I am fairly sure nearly everyone is now on the Roll.

However, if you have joined our church family recently, do consider going onto the Roll. It means 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. You can also become a sidesperson. To be on the Roll, you must be baptised and 16 years old, either live in the parish, or have worshipped here regularly for at least 6 months.

The Roll will be on view at the back of church on 24 & 31 March and 7 April and during that time application forms will be available in the back of the folder. Completed forms should be returned to me, or left in the office in an envelope marked with my name, by **7 April** at the latest. After that date, no names can be added until after the APCM.

If you have moved during the last 12 months, could you please check that I have your new address.

Any queries, please get in touch: ealeo200@hotmail.com

Elizabeth Leopold

A CHALLENGE FOR US ALL!

For those who have access to the internet you may be interested in a website recommended to me by our then vicar, Steve.

It is called 'Seen and Unseen' and is a magazine style website, part of the Centre for Cultural Witness, an initiative launched by Archbishop Justin Welby. Its aim is to 'give a Christian perspective on just about everything'.

It has a long list of contributors from a wide variety of backgrounds who write articles on a diverse mixture of topics.

Last year, Steve invited everyone to ask questions about faith which he would endeavour to answer (still available on the church website). I responded by asking one about the Seven Deadly Sins and their relevance in our modern society. Then several weeks later he suggested I look at this website which had just posted the first article in a series on this subject. Unfortunately, I have something of a butterfly mind and while reading through them I noticed another article on the symbolism of the coronation regalia and the significance of the coronation vows.

Later while looking for something else I saw a history of the Gaza -Israeli war, one of many pieces on this topic, all very interesting and thought provoking. Then, while writing this I saw a piece on 'the corrosive effect of profuse profanity'! You have been warned!

There is also a podcast which has the same articulate and perceptive attitudes to the many subjects discussed.

So while having your next cup of coffee (or tea) I suggest you take a moment to log on and see if there is something you find of interest.

Let me know what you think!

Kathy Roberts

ST JOHN'S, MENSTON

Easter

EASTER MEDITATION

WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH - 7PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION

THURSDAY 28 MARCH - 7PM

WORDS FROM THE CROSS

GOOD FRIDAY 29 MARCH - 2-3.30PM

**ALL-AGE EASTER WORKSHOP
& GARDENING DROP IN**

SATURDAY 30 MARCH - 10AM-12PM

EASTER DAY - SUNDAY 31 MARCH

ZEST - 9.30AM

HOLY COMMUNION - 11AM



WWW.STJOHNMENSTON.ORG.UK

Worship this month

3 Mar The Third Sunday of LENT

Readings: 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25; John 2: 13-22

Reader: Geoff Druett

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

10 Mar The Fourth Sunday of LENT Mothering Sunday

Readings: 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7; John 19: 25b-27

Reader: Glenys Prince

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

17 Mar The Fifth Sunday of LENT

Readings: Hebrews 5: 5-10; John 12: 20-33

Reader: Dominic Hall

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

24 Mar PALM SUNDAY

Readings: Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-end; Mark 11: 1-11

Reader: Wendy Thornhill

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

31 Mar EASTER DAY

Readings: Acts 10: 34-43; Mark 16: 1-8

Reader: Diane Beaumont

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

7 Apr The Second Sunday of EASTER
Readings: Acts 4: 32-35; John 20: 19-end
Reader: Julie West

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist

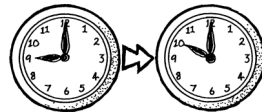
MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

9.30am Thursdays: 7 / 14 / 21 / Maundy Thursday - see below

MAUNDY THURSDAY
There will be one service of
Holy Communion only at
7.30pm.

Readings:
1 Corinthians 11: 23-26;
John 13: 1-17, 31b-35.

SUMMERTIME Remember the
clocks go *forward one hour* on
Sunday 31 March.



WORSHIP NOTES

EASTER LILIES
Easter Day Sunday 31
March. If you wish to
contribute to the lilies which
will decorate St John's at
Eastertide donations can be
posted through the **Parish**
Office letter box or passed

to a warden on
Sunday
mornings.
Please put the
money in a
sealed envelope
clearly marked '**for Easter**
Lilies'.
Thank you.



Jan Alexander

PCC Notes

PCC met on 29 January, sitting as the **SECTION 11** meeting in the process of filling our vacancy for a new priest.

To be able to complete our Parish Profile we needed to make several timely decisions:

- Firstly, our continued intention to give 5% of our annual income to our Mission Giving. This is good gospel practice. As well as asking for resources we also give as much as we can. This is decided, locally, nationally, and internationally, by the congregation voting with buttons. This year we will give a total of £5,396.45 to our three nominated charities. Thank you for helping us continue to do this.
- We also agreed to give what we promised we would to the Parish Share, which this year amounts to £70,000. Again, this is through the generosity of our givers, and with rising costs we know how this is a challenge for everyone and that future years will continue to be a challenge. We trust and pray that our generosity will be enabled to continue.

- The second issue we had to discuss, for both our profile and our search for a new priest, was around the debate that has dominated the newspapers regarding General Synod's support for better inclusion, and the place of LGBT people in the life of our church. After careful discussion we produced this statement:

As a church we are on a journey towards being 'Inclusive' in full. This means becoming open and accepting of the guidance issued recently around Living in Love and Faith and the use of the Prayers of Blessing. We hope that the new priest will accompany us as we explore what this means for us in terms of mission and ministry.

If you want to know more about the background to this statement and understand more about what the PCC have said, please ask one of the wardens or Andrew.

In the **SECTION 11 meeting, as required for a Church seeking a new priest**, we thanked Roger and Catherine

for the work they had done on the profile and the brochure which will help potential candidates to understand a little bit more about the post here at St Johns. If you are interested in seeing the brochure it will be published on our website.

The next step, **SECTION 12**, is on the 29 February. This is when the PCC meet with Bishop Toby, the Archdeacon, the area Dean, and the Lay Chair of the Deanery, to agree the recruitment process and launch our search for a new priest.

We also agreed that the elected 2 parish representatives to sit on the selection panel should be David and Hilary, our lead wardens.

Please keep all of this in your prayers Thank you.

Andrew

ALTAR FLOWERS

No Altar flowers in Lent.

NEW 2024 FLOWER ROTA altar flowers rota is now in the church porch. Please sign up for your preferred date(s).

EASTER DAY If you would like to help to decorate the church for Easter please come along on **Saturday 30 March - 9.30am** - you will be most welcome.

Jan Alexander

Light Up St John's – Floodlight Sponsorship

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 17 February | Remembering my mum with love. |
| 25 February | In memory of my daughter Gillian Claire Petfield (nee Boddy) |
| 2 March | Remembering my dad with love. |
| 24/28 April | Remembering my husband with love today and every day |

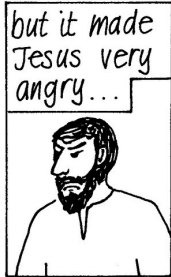
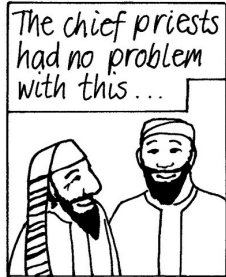
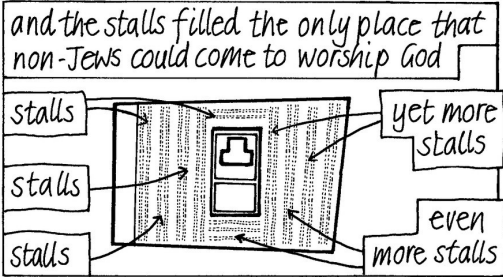
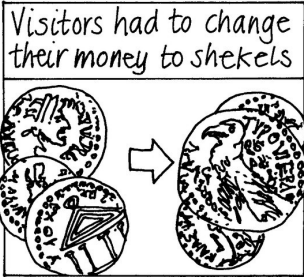
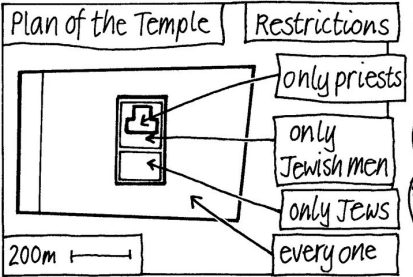
This is a very special way to mark an anniversary or simply to give thanks. The cost is £5 per evening which helps to cover the costs of floodlighting the church from dusk until 10.30pm. Contact the Parish Office to make arrangements: 872433 or office@stjohnmenston.org.uk

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 21:12-16, Mk 11:15-18, Lk 19: 45-48

When Jesus reached Jerusalem he went to the Temple, built as a place where everyone could worship God, but with restrictions...





This month:

- 5 March 2.15pm Preparation for Easter – Parish Room
- 10 March Mothering Sunday
- 25 March Lady Day

(Our previous practice in Bradford Diocese to hold services marking Lady Day at Bradford Cathedral and at Skipton has been discontinued. In our new Bradford Area, some branches are happy to arrange a service at their church, and advertise this accordingly, inviting members from other branches to attend)



Mothering Sunday

As is our usual practice, MU members will be preparing the daffodil posies for the mums of Zest and the 11am service, meeting in the Parish Room at 9.30am on Saturday 9 March. Extra volunteer helpers would be made most welcome – as would donations of greenery to mix with the daffodils.

The year ahead

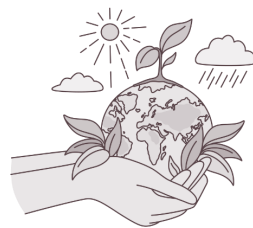
As outlined in the February magazine, St John’s MU branch is starting another year with 18 members, which is very encouraging. Menston MU is unable to be physically active because of increasing age. We will continue to do the things we do every year, at certain times in the calendar, in the name of the Mothers’ Union, as well as raising enough funds to support our MU charities and diocesan and area projects.

We are very sorry to be losing the support of Steve, our Vicar, who was always happy to join with us when he could, and wish him well in his new post in the Diocese. We also send our love and prayers to Andrew and look forward to working with him when he is fit and well again.

Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon

ECO CHURCH

On 30 March, Easter Saturday, do come along to the Parish Room between 10-12 when there will be a chance to help with planting seeds, making the Easter Garden and join a scavenger hunt. Everyone welcome.



With spring on the way and the flowers and trees bursting into life, do sit a while and enjoy a chance to 'be still' and enjoy some contemplative time from one of the seats in the churchyard. There is always something new to see.

Eco tips for March are:

- Make a list before you go food shopping to help avoid over impulse buying and buying food you will end up throwing away.
- Reduce your impact on the environment by buying second hand when you can. Ebay and charity shops are good sources of reused items.
- When you need to buy a large item, research it carefully. Think about how long it could last, how much it costs to run, what it is made of, where it is made, can it be recycled at the end of its life. Better quality items often last longer and so cost you less over time.
- Tempted to buy in impulse when you are shopping? Get in the habit of coming back the next day or week when you have thought through if you really *need to buy it*.

Date for your diary: Saturday 27 March Family Eco Quiz with supper, 4-6pm.

If you would like to join our local eco church group, Jen, Sally, Matthew, Catherine, Jeanne-Claire and Marilyn, do get in touch.

MENSTON HERITAGE GROUP

The group would love to hear from you with experiences of being part of St John's Church community. We have the history, now we want more stories! If you can write it down or wish to chat it through, please get in touch with Marilyn. 874220.

CLIMATE ACTION MENSTON (CAM)

On Wednesday 6 March at 7.30pm in Kirklands, all are welcome to the CAM meeting when we will hear about *'Improving the energy efficiency of your home without unintended consequences.'* Cathy Hunt will explain the industry wide PAS2035 Retrofitting framework which can help create a step by step plan for homes whilst avoiding the pitfalls.

Marilyn for Climate Action Menston

Saturday 2 March, 3-5pm

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