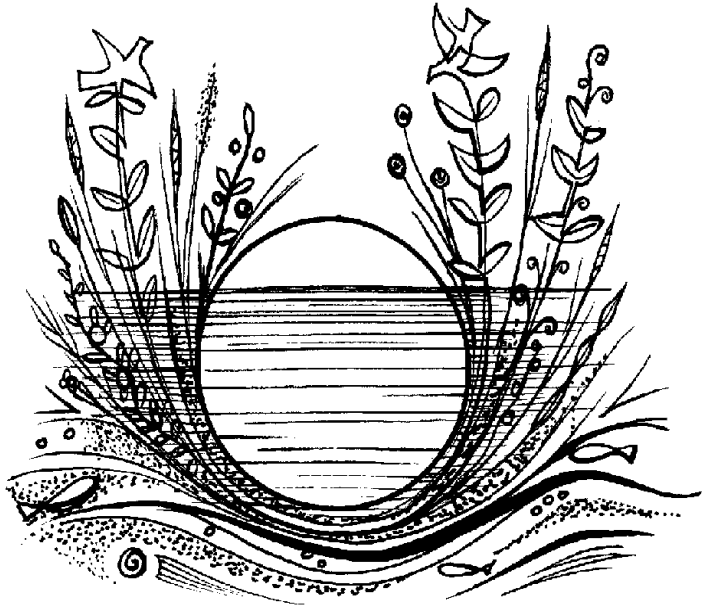


2023

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MENSTON
PARISH CHURCH
St John the Divine



£1

Mothering Sunday
19 March



**Accredited by the
College of Podiatry**

Welcome to our Guiseley Clinic.

Traditional Podiatry for treatment of

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

Biomechanical Assessments treating

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

Tendon, muscle and ligament rehabilitation.

Gait retraining for both walkers and runners.

Fascial Manipulation

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

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

Calling all Crafters!

*First Sunday of the month in the
Parish Room 10.15 - 11am.
Next craft stall: **Sunday 5 March.***

We need your help!!

Can you knit, paint, stitch, bake or
create something we can sell on the stall? The
more the merrier!

Please help if you can - fancy goods, home
made gifts - even Christmas crafts.

Please give your items to
Angela St John, Sue Lee or Andrew.

Proceeds to church funds.

This month

P6 Electoral Roll Revision

P7 Prayer Points

P8/9 A View from the Pews

P12 PCC news

P16/17 Eco-Church

P19 Menston MU news

P20 Bible Bite

Copy for the APRIL magazine is due by
Sunday 12 March. 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

In our evening service at 6pm we are working through the story of Joseph. We all think we know Joseph, especially his 'Technicolour Dreamcoat' which was red and yellow and... but what we're finding on Sunday evenings is that the story is much more complex and has much more to tell us than the musical suggests.

Joseph is a story of faithful service despite disappointment, anger and frustration. It's the story an arrogant youth maturing into a much wiser man whilst at the same time negotiating meteoric rises and falls in fortune. It's the story of God working in the background, despite a plethora of flawed characters and dishonest plans, to save his world from famine. It's also the story of a dream that sets in motion the events that ironically bring about its realisation. In Joseph's story there is much for us to ponder that relate to our own lives and experiences.

With Joseph, though, it's not a case of 'Any dream will do.' Dreams are important throughout the story and their interpretation is the key to Joseph's succession. I read a book recently that argued that we tend to forget that we live in 'time.' The author talked about how, given that we are time-based people, we need to practice the art of 'discernment.' Much like Joseph's interpretation of the dreams of the baker, the cupholder and Pharaoh himself, we are to discern God's will and God's message for *now*.

Now don't get me wrong. I'm not saying that God's self-disclosure in the Bible and through Jesus himself isn't in some ways changeless. But what I am supposing is that

each day we wake up, we discern what it is that we need to do as God's people in God's world today; just like Joseph had to discern what it meant to work in Potiphar's household, the prison, and then Pharaoh's household. Following God faithfully would have looked quite different in each circumstance, and certainly dealing with the emotional baggage of being chucked in a well, sold into slavery, falsely accused and thrown into prison would have added spice to that discernment.

We are people who live in history; who have a past that we drag with us into the present. We practice discernment in the present based on that past, our current circumstances and our future hopes. For us, as followers of Jesus, this discernment, like Joseph's, isn't the same as other peoples'. Instead, we discern God's voice for us as we read our Bibles and pray. We discern as we meet together to worship and to encourage each other in faith. We discern as we listen for that inner prompting from God throughout our days. And we discern as we seek to live faithfully in whatever circumstances we are given for today – who knows, perhaps, like Joseph, God is working through us and we just can't see it yet.

If you want to try the book I read, it is James, K.A. Smith, *How To Inhabit Time*.

Steve

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.

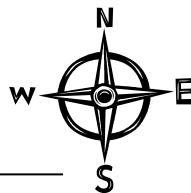
The revision of the Roll is a rather drawn out process, but it is a legal requirement. The existing Roll will be placed on view at the back of church on **Sundays 19, 26 March and Sunday 2 April**. Application forms will be in the same red folder. Completed forms should be handed to me, or handed in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

Prayer Points



This is the month when the spring bulbs wake up and show forth their beauty!

During **Lent**, pray that we will set aside time to meditate and be nurtured by the word of the Bible.

1 March St David's Day

17 March St Patrick's Day

Give thanks for all the saints, both male and female who, through the centuries and in their own way, have demonstrated the love of Jesus.

8 March International Women's Day

Give thanks for the inspiring women who are influential in all walks of life.

Give thanks for the example and legacy of inspiring women throughout history, remembering especially the women of the Bible.

Pray for women who lack inspiration and find life a struggle. Ask for God's blessing to sustain them and refresh their weary spirits.

19 March Mothering Sunday

Give thanks for all mothers and carers who look after their children.

Remember our own mothers and give thanks for the love, care and patience shown to us.

Pray for mothers who are suffering from postnatal depression and those who are finding motherhood difficult.

Pray for mothers who live in poverty and struggle to feed their children and provide them with shelter.

25 March The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Be inspired by the humble obedience of Mary.

With thanks to Jane Pratt for this month's Prayer Points

A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

Is the Church of England a body based in the principles of equality? At the recent general synod everybody seemed vexed over the treatment of committed gay couples wishing to be married in their faith. The decision, to continue to deny marriage equality will be seen either as a slamming of the door once again or a reaffirmation of principle. Similarly the decision to allow vicars to offer prayers and blessings to couples from the LGBTQ+ community might be seen as a chink of light for the future or an intolerable liberalisation and 'woke' rendering of scripture.

The stated objective of the Archbishop of Canterbury in this discussion is to try to keep the global Anglican community together. I wonder whether that is an impossible task. Further, I wonder whether the aim is even desirable.

In the UK there are representatives of all faiths and none at the heart of our society. Indeed, the current Prime Minister is a member of the Hindu faith. In spite of this huge diversity in belief and opinion, we remain a largely peaceful and tolerant society. Perhaps it is time for the leadership in Anglicanism to take a similar arrangement within our faith community. It would be easy to say that the cultural differences throughout the communion are causing the bind for Welby. However, if other societies are allowed to have their views imposed on those of us here then the relationship does not appear to be equal, respectful and tolerant.

Marriage between couples of the same sex became the law of the land in 2013 and yet in the decade since the church has barely got on to the slip road. The brake on progress appears to be conservative voices across the communion and Welby's attempts to keep the communion in one place.

It is only my view, of course, but it seems now is the time to flip the debate and ask those conservative voices to explain with

clarity how denying love is part of the teachings of Christ. More importantly, I think it is also time to ask the uneasy questions of the Church leaders in this country. Is keeping the communion together globally really more important than the well-being of those members of the communion here at home?

A church is its people. We are at our best when we encourage others to live their lives to the fullest. However, sometimes it is better for us to be living apart in mutual acceptance than clinging on to a marriage that isn't working and that is tearing each other apart.

Comment from Steve, (Vicar) - This is a complex issue with domestic disagreement as well as the international concerns Dominic highlights in his article. Andrew, our Associate Priest, and I are looking at ways of facilitating and informing discussion going forward, following the vote at Synod. If you are keen to know more, or be part of this, please let me know. Thanks.



2025 Menston Heritage Group

It was great to meet Shanaz Gulzar, the Creative Director for Bradford 2025 at our meeting in January and to hear her take on the themes put forward in the bid. We feel that our heritage trail idea will fit with what is envisaged and so we continue to research people and places that we can highlight on a trail.

We will be gathering archive material shortly to catalogue and place in the room that the library are giving us to use. We are a sub-committee of Menston Parish council and all the minutes etc are on the Menston.org website.

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

Marilyn

St JOHN'S MISSION GIVING IN 2023

International Charity

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) / Doctors without Borders

MSF are currently working in Iraq, South Sudan, Haiti, Somaliland, Nigeria, Mozambique and Ukraine.

In Ukraine, MSF is operating a medical train evacuating patients from near the frontiers of fighting to safer areas. It is similar in set-up to a hospital, complete with an intensive care unit. They see many types of patients on the train: elderly people with chronic diseases trapped by the conflict; children with multiple trauma wounds, patients with blast injuries, bone fractures, amputations.

Artur Struminsky is a nurse aide working on the train and writes of one harrowing encounter with a 15 year-old girl with extensive damage to her abdominal area and spinal chord - the result of a bomb blast. *'Despite everything she had been through, she kept a positive attitude and smiled at the medical staff whenever we passed her bed or checked on her. She showed what resilience can look like when you've been seriously injured. Meeting somebody like her is incredibly motivating - it inspires you to do all you can for the patients in your care.'*

Working on MSF's medical train has made me appreciate the peace that I took for granted before the war. This experience has taught me that war can happen anywhere and anyone of us could be the next person who needs help.'

MSF produce regular publicity about their work. See back of the church for some recent items and the excellent website www.msg.org.uk

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12% on fundraising. For every £1 they spend they raise £6.60.

2% on office management.

Outreach Group

PCC Notes

The PCC met via zoom on Monday 23 January. We began by praying for leaders both in the Church of England, and in the world. There are many challenges in the world and so we prayed in small groups.

The Council then received the Annual Financial Report from Colin. There was good news in that the roof project has been completed and paid for, but there are real challenges for the future as, like the world around us, costs are spiralling and no fund raising was done for church general funds was done in 2022. Covid stopped lots of external users of the Parish Rooms and weddings and funerals were down again due to lockdown rules. These things take time to financially recover from. In presenting the budget for next year, the PCC were told we need to look at fund raising to assist in breaking even next year. Social and fund raising ideas are needed as are volunteers to help with this year's plans.

We were pleased to hear that the gatepost lantern work was now completed and thanks to a

donation the electrical work is also completed so they are shining bright again.

Plans are a foot for the Coronation Celebrations, and we were delighted to hear that the Fairfax Singers are willing to present a concert for us on Friday 5 May to begin our weekend of Celebrations. More details of other events will come nearer the time.

The Eco-group are working hard with plans for pots and planters, bee and bug hotels, nature trails around the churchyard and an eco-quiz for families in March.

Conversations were held about how well we communicate together and how we relate to the Menston village. Lots of ideas for improving our communications - look out for innovations coming up. One of the ideas was to create a display about who the officers are and who is on the PCC.

There will be elections again at the APCM so why not start thinking whether you could serve on the PCC?

Andrew



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

5 Mar The Second Sunday of LENT

Readings: Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17; Matthew 21: 12-17, 23-27

Reader: David Machin

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm 6pm Service ~ Genesis 42-44

7-8pm The Den

12 Mar The Third Sunday of LENT

Readings: Romans 5: 1-11; Matthew 26: 17-30

Reader: Heather Greig

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

7-8pm The Den

19 Mar The Fourth Sunday of LENT Mothering Sunday

Readings: Exodus 2: 1-10; Luke 2: 33-35

Reader: Elizabeth Leopold

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm 6pm Service ~

7-8pm The Den ~ Genesis 45-46

26 Mar The Fifth Sunday of LENT

Readings: Romans 8: 6-11; Matthew 26: 36-56

Reader: Jan Alexander

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm The Den @ 'Release' ~ Ilkley All Saints

2 Apr PALM SUNDAY

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

Reader: Dorothy Slater

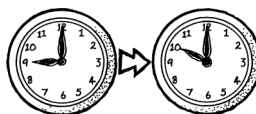
9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist
6.00pm 6pm Service
7-8pm The Den



MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

SUMMERTIME Remember the clocks go *forward one hour* on **Sunday 26 March.**

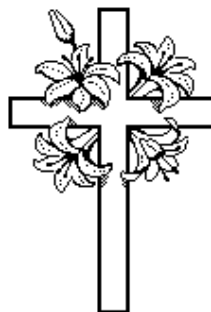


2023 FLOWER ROTA

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

St John's Parish Church, Menston

Family Eco Quiz

A family fun Eco Quiz with food!

Food: jacket potatoes + toppings followed by cake / Drinks: tea, coffee, squash

Saturday 18 March
4 - 6 pm in the Parish Room



FAMILY
TICKET- £10

INDIVIDUAL
TICKET - £4

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
THE ECO TEAM AT CHURCH
OR THE PARISH OFFICE
OFFICE@STJOHNMENSTON.ORG.UK

The Eco Church Group

We are organising an eco themed family friendly quiz on Saturday 18 March from 4-6pm. There will be baked potatoes and toppings plus cake, so do come along and test out your eco knowledge! Tickets are £10 for families and £4 for individuals. Please purchase from one of the team.

By then, the apple tree kindly donated to St John's, will have been planted and a water butt installed by the Parish Room ready to supply water for the pots we will be using for planting. If you have large pots you are happy to donate, please bring them to the Parish Room or contact Marilyn if they need collecting.

On Easter Saturday (8 April from 10-12) there will be a chance to make bee and bug hotels, plant up the pots and do a scavenger hunt and more, so do put the date in your diaries and if you are available to help on the day, please be in touch.

We are planning to visit the Veolia recycling centre in Leeds, possibly on 4 April at 2pm. If you are interested, do let us know.

Have you made a climate pledge yet? Cards at the back of church and online [here](#) (scroll to the bottom of the page). If each of us pledges one action, we can bring about big changes!

We will also be looking at how St John's can get to net zero by 2030 in line with the target set by General Synod .

Many thanks for your support of these various initiatives.

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

What happened to your last mobile phone?

What did you do with your last, old mobile phone, after you bought the new one?

Apparently 52% of us hoard it away somewhere, just in case. A recent survey estimates that there are now 90 million old mobile phones in our homes, lurking in drawers or under beds, or handed on to other members of the family.



The average life of a mobile phone is seven years, but 87% of us will have gone through three or four phones by then. It is vital to recycle phones and do your bit for the environment. It won't cost you anything. Some ideas of what to do with an old phone:

- Upgrading? The shop where you're buying should recycle your old phone for you free of charge. They will make sure your hand set is recycled properly.
- Many local authority waste and recycling sites have a special bin where you deposit phones for recycling.
- Check your user guide – you might find that replacing the battery, updating software or freeing up memory gets you extra time with your phone.
- Faulty screens, dusty connections or loose components can be fixed – and you could save yourself money.
- Many charities welcome mobile phones, which they can re-sell or give to people who need them.
- There's a huge market in second-hand mobile phones. Try Ebay or Gumtree or comparison sites such as [Compare and Recycle](#).

This month:

Tuesday 7 March 2.15pm *Lent Meditation*
Mrs Alison Boggie

Sunday 19 March *Mothers' Day*
MU to provide daffodil posies for Zest and 11am services
(*Members please meet in the Parish Room on Saturday
18 March at 9.30 am to prepare the posies*).

Tuesday 21 March 2.15 pm *Social Afternoon*
Parish Room – enjoy a time of fellowship together over tea
and biscuits.

Saturday 25 March *Lady Day*
Services are being held at Ripon Cathedral for Ripon and
Leeds Areas, and Northowram for Huddersfield, Wakefield
and Bradford Areas.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

At the start of this year, 20 members renewed their MU membership, which means we can carry on as a group for the foreseeable future. We have a programme in place until the summer break, and although the main meeting each month will be the first Tuesday in the month, we are now meeting socially on the third Tuesday as an experiment to see if any members wish to support this idea.

We also have a new Bradford MU President, the Revd Jennie Kimber from Cottingley, and she wishes to visit all her branches this year. Hopefully we can welcome her to St John's at some point when she contacts us to arrange a suitable date.

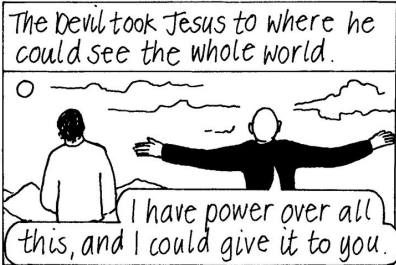
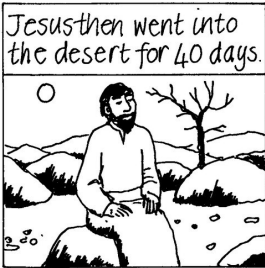
Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Jn 1:29-34, Mt 3:13-17, Lk 3:21-4:13, Mk 1:9-12

People came to John to be baptised - washed in the river Jordan - to say sorry for what they had done wrong. Then Jesus came...



We believe we are a welcoming church ...

We extend a special welcome here to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters.

We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like organised religion (*we're not that keen either!*)

We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to church.

We welcome those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, filthy rich, comfortable, or dirt poor. We extend a special welcome to wailing babies and excited toddlers.

We welcome you whether you sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're just browsing, just woken up or are a regular pew sitter.

We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as a kid or got lost and wound up here by mistake.

We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters...and You!

Ed: With many thanks to Andrew who 'recycled' this article after a recent visit to Coventry Cathedral! Food for thought.

All in the month of MARCH

300 years ago, on 8 March 1723 Sir Christopher Wren, English architect, died. Best known for designing St Paul's Cathedral.

80 years ago, on 13 March 1943 the final liquidation of Krakow Ghetto in Poland took place. 8,000 Jews were transported to Plaszow labour camp, 2,000 more were simply killed in the streets, and the rest were sent to Auschwitz.

20 years ago, on 12 March 2003 that the World Health Organisation issued a global alert about a severe form of pneumonia (now known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome – SARS) that was affecting people in China, Hong Kong and Vietnam.

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FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERAL SERVICES *We commend into the hands of Almighty God:*
23 February Patricia Ann Hindle

Light Up St John's – Floodlight Sponsorship

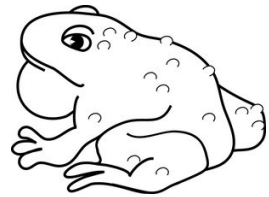
2 March Special memories of my beloved Dad

This is a very special way to mark an anniversary or simply to give thanks for a loved one. 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

TOADS AHOY!

This month common toads all over the country will be on the move, heading back to the breeding ponds where they themselves were spawned. Sadly, many will never make it, because of busy roads.



If you like toads, you can help them by joining the Toads on Roads project. It keeps a sharp eye out for 'migratory crossings' on certain roads. It helps the toads to cross safely, by coordinating local Toad Patrols who will actively help the toads get across the road, and also putting up road warning signs for motorists.

Toads on Roads has been running for more than 20 years, and saved thousands of toads. If you would like to know more, become a Toad Patroller, or register a toad crossing, please go to: <https://www.froglife.org/what-we-do/toads-on-roads>

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1/6th page ~ £55 / year







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- Night or day care
- Specialist care eg Dementia
- Cleaning/Laundry
- Food preparation
- Personal hygiene
- Local shopping / errands

Please call to discuss your personal needs.

Contact Sarah: 01943 874018 or 07919 566352

Excellent references available.

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