

2024

MENSTON  
PARISH CHURCH  
St John the Divine



£1

*Lent begins*  
*14 February*



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## MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2024 are due to be collected with delivery of this issue of the magazine. The cost of the magazine remains at *£1 per copy - £10 for the year.*

Subscriptions will be collected by the person who delivers your magazine. Please make cheques payable to **'Menston PCC'**. Payment by BACS is also possible; HSBC Leeds -Menston PCC 40-22-28 40572640. Please let the person collecting subscriptions know that you have paid this way and be sure to add **'MAGAZINE and your surname'** as a reference so that the Treasurer can keep track of magazine payments.

Thank you for subscribing to the magazine during 2023. We hope that you will continue!

Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to arrange a **postal delivery**. This will include a charge to cover second class postage.

If you know someone who might like to receive the magazine please ring the Parish Office (872433) to arrange delivery.

### **This month**

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Copy for the MARCH magazine is due by **Sunday 11 February. Early copy much appreciated due to holiday commitments.** Please email copy to both editor and Parish Office ([office@stjohnmenston.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohnmenston.org.uk)) or leave copy for typing with the office.

### Dear Friends

Happy New Year! I know it is starting to feel a bit late and tatty to be still talking of New Year, but this is the first Parish Magazine of 2024. It is also the first Vicar's letter of the interregnum, following the farewell service for Steve, and of course Elaine, Samuel, and Phoebe. Although it was a very sad day, I believe we gave them a great '*St Johns Farewell*'. Thank you to all those who baked, and helped it to be a great send off. It was lovely to see the church full. Also thank you to those of you who gave towards a leaving gift. The churchwardens were able to give Steve a generous cheque, which will no doubt be useful as they move into their brand-new home. Some of you will know that Steve is taking up a senior officer's role in the Diocese, working out of Church House and this post does not come with a house. Their new home will be in Burley-in-Wharfedale, but currently the walls are only about 6 feet high! Consequently, they will be renting the vicarage until about March, when hopefully the builders will have completed their new home. This means that you may see them still around for a while yet, walking Pepper and doing the school run for Phoebe. Also, for the more vigilant among us, that is why it looks like there is still some one living in the Vicarage.

So, New Year brings New Beginnings and some things done differently. Firstly, it is me writing this letter, yes, the 'Associate', the one currently off sick! However, there are somethings I can do to help, and for the time being this is one of those things. Every interregnum brings challenges, but I also believe it brings new opportunities. We will all have to take extra special care of each other, and whilst St Johns has a history of people stepping forward to volunteer, we will need this willingness to 'have a go' like we haven't over the last 6 years. It would be good to have different people writing this letter maybe, and certainly we will need willing helpers to assist with Zest, and with aspects of the 11am service. Different priests will be

visiting each week and we will of course make them welcome in the hope that they will want to come and help us again on further Sundays, we need to make new faces feel welcome. Its always a joy to welcome new people, but as the word gets around that we are in vacancy, we may get ‘undercover clergy’ visiting to ‘sniff us out!’. One thing is clear, things will change, and for those of us who are anxious about change, it is important to remind ourselves that Gods vision and mission is bigger than all of us. Our responsibility is to be faithful, to trust that we are part of Gods Story here in Menston, and to pray that He continues to hold us in His hands, and to fill us with his Spirit.

Finally, a word about the process. Many of you will remember the process from six years ago when we needed a priest to replace Ruth. A new vicar does not arrive quickly. The churchwardens and the PCC are working as quickly as they can to prepare all the documents and launch our vacancy. The Area Dean, The Archdeacon, and Bishop Toby will be doing all they can to help bring the right person into post. Following a meeting of the area mission and pastoral committee, discussion took place about our vacancy and the best way to provide a new incumbent. With prayer they agreed that whilst it is not necessarily the outcome that some might hope for, a half-time priest being paired again with the half-time assistant diocesan director of ordinands ( in other words exactly the same as Steve’s role) would be the best way of ensuring that we get a new priest.

As you can see there is a lot to pray for, please do continue to prayer for the wardens, who have a significant amount of responsibility during an interregnum, and continue to pray for each other as we carry on being Gods people here in Menston. Amen

*Andrew*

## **A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall**

There is a well-worn saying that life is a series of meetings and partings. We have begun the year in Menston with a significant parting. Steve was the eighth vicar at St. John's since the end of the Second World War. I am not sure if any of you remember Thomas Hammond. I am sure some may have distant memories of Ralph Place. Michael Heckingbottom may have performed marriages or christenings for some of you. Irvin Wilson, John Ward, David Clarke and Ruth Yeoman will all stir memories of worship, church moments and community. We can now, with some sadness, place Steve Proudlove into those memory banks.

This means we have an interregnum whilst those in a position to do so seek a new Vicar to lead us into the second quarter of the twenty-first century!

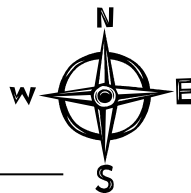
An interregnum is a period, according to the dictionary, when a throne is vacant or the normal functions of a government are suspended between administrations. In other countries this might have more meaning but in the UK the throne is never vacant – Charles became King the moment his mother died; governmental power flows smoothly between parties or people depending on how the transition has occurred. The word is used almost exclusively with reference to vacancies in the Church.

What we do during the interregnum is up to the congregation. Of course, there are practical and administrative things to be done. The wardens, PCC and others will be working hard behind the scenes to make sure you hardly notice the changes. However, the congregation does have a clear voice. You may well be asked your views on the sort of vicar that should be appointed. It is a chance to shape the future of worship in our church. Inevitably there will be a range of opinions as to what the next vicar should be like. Do we want someone with a family? Would we want someone older and established or a young and energetic type? How will their views on a Christian approach to life meld with our own? Is the pastoral more important than the theologian?

These are just some of the questions we have to ask and answer during the next few months. To do so prayerfully and to chat with others in the congregation should help us to bring in to focus the vision of the person we would like to lead us through the rest of the 2020s and into the 2030s.

I hope we can all take time to open ourselves to God and that by this time next year we have a vicar we can trust, listen to and love as much as we did Steve.

# Prayer Points



February is a special month, partly because it is the shortest month, but also because it has an extra day this year (the 29th) making 2024 a leap year (according to the Gregorian calendar).

## **February 14th ~ Ash Wednesday**

So begins the 40 days of Lent, a time when we remember that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert fasting and resisting temptation. Lord, help us to do likewise, observing the period of Lent.

## **St Valentine's Day**

St Valentine was executed on this day by the Roman emperor, Claudius (a pagan) for marrying soldiers in the Christian tradition (which was forbidden as Claudius felt they should dedicate themselves to their duties as soldiers.)

Let us love one another, for love comes from God.

**Meditate** on the words of this lovely 18th century hymn by Charles Wesley and pray for all whom you love ( or have loved ) and all newly weds, that they may honour their marriage vows.

*Love Divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of Heav'n to earth come down.  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy Faithful mercies crown.*

*Jesu, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.*

**Pray** for all children and their families as they enjoy the half-term break from school.

Enfold us, Lord, in your love,  
surround us with your peace,  
encircle us with your power.

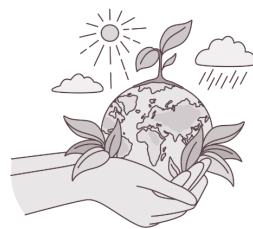
Enable us to be what you would have us be;  
empower us to do what you would have us do;  
through Christ our living Lord. Amen.

*from The Radiance of Glory by David Adam.*

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

## Eco church

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas jumper sale by organising donating or buying. It generated a lot of interest and we could have done with more stock! The jumper and craft stall made £127.40 for church funds.



The communal Christmas cards were displayed on the baptistry screen and added to the very impressive church decorations/ nativity scene.

We are working on our plans for the coming year - seed sowing, a quiz and a tree trail. More details to follow .

With Lent starting on 14 February here are some thoughts from the A Rocha / Eco church community:

*The Lenten 40-day period before Easter gives us the opportunity to reflect on the practice of fasting and commit to giving up something that brings a real benefit to nature and helps address climate change. Below are some changes you could make that will help the environment. Take time to pray, reflect and consider these options – pick one or two or however many you'd like (you never know the changes might just stick!).*

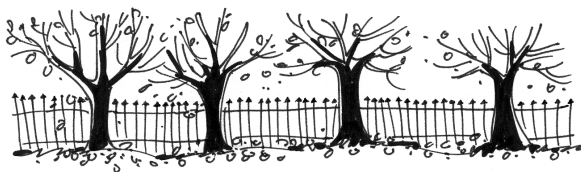
- *Switch off from digital. Explore technology-free times or areas of the house, switching to 'airplane mode' for the first hour in the morning and the last hour at night, 'switch off Sundays', reaching for your Bible over your device(s) and writing a list of outdoor things that you enjoy.*
- *Buy local - make us of the refill facility at our local NISA*
- *Try a plant-based recipe or diet.*



- *Change your method of transport. How about walking or cycling for repeated errands, choosing one day a week to walk, cycle or take public transport to work where you are able to.*
- *Move your money. Could you divest from fossil fuels and support a bank which invests in renewables?'*

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

*Marilyn Banister*



## **GIVE AS YOU LIVE**

A while ago Roger Banister introduced us to a new and painless way of raising funds for St John's: **Give As You Live**  
[www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com)

Most of us now enjoy the armchair shopping that the internet gives us, but by doing our shopping via the *Give as you Live* website a small proportion of what we spend can be given to St John's. You simply need to register St John's as the charity you wish funds to go to. Most of the shops we use on-line offer this option.

Rather like Gift Aid, this is a simple, safe way of raising money for St John's. So if you don't already 'give as you live' please consider it and see the smile on the Treasurer's face! If you want to know more get in touch with Roger.

## **REFUGEES** by Brian Bilston

They have no need of our help  
So do not tell me  
These haggard faces could belong to you or me  
Should life have dealt a different hand  
We need to see them for who they really are  
Chancers and scroungers  
Layabouts and loungers  
With bombs up their sleeves  
Cut-throats and thieves  
They are not  
Welcome here  
We should make them  
Go back to where they came from  
They cannot  
Share our food  
Share our homes  
Share our countries  
Instead let us  
Build a wall to keep them out  
It is not okay to say  
These are people just like us  
A place should only belong to those who are born there  
Do not be so stupid to think that  
The world can be looked at another way

*(now read from bottom to top)*

Thanks to the Thursday morning communicants.

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Saturday 2 March, 3-5pm

# Music in the air

St John's Church, Burley Lane, Menston, LS29 6EU

Join us at St John's to hear  
local musicians of all ages  
making music for local people

£5 per adult including  
refreshments. Children go free.

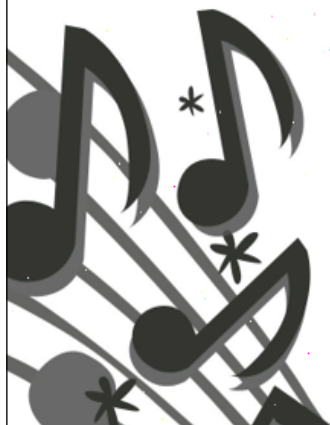
**Tickets from the Parish Office:**

email [office@stjohnmenston.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohnmenston.org.uk)

text 07440289248, or or leave

a message at 01943 872433.

In aid of church funds.



# Worship this month

**4 Feb     The Second Sunday before LENT**  
**Readings: Colossians 1: 15-20; John 1: 1-14**  
*Reader: Ros Wilkinson*

9.30am    Zest  
11.00am   Parish Eucharist

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**11 Feb    The Sunday next before LENT**  
**Readings: 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6; Mark 9: 2-9**  
*Reader: Colin Alexander*

9.30am    Zest  
11.00am   Parish Eucharist

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**18 Feb    The First Sunday of LENT**  
**Readings: 1 Peter 3: 18-end; Mark 1: 9-15**  
*Reader: Pat Machin*

9.30am    Zest  
11.00am   Parish Eucharist

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**25 Feb    The Second Sunday of LENT**  
**Readings: Romans 4: 13-end; Mark 8: 31-end**  
*Reader: Adele Maddy*

9.30am    Zest  
11.00am   Parish Eucharist

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**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

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## MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

9.30am *Thursdays: 1 / 8 / 22 / 29 February; 7 March*

Please note that there will be **NO THURSDAY** morning Communion service on **15 February**

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### **WORSHIP NOTES**

#### **ASH WEDNESDAY 14 February**

This special service marking the beginning of Lent will take place in church at 9.30am.

**Readings: 2 Corinthians 5: 20b - 6:10;  
John 8: 1-11**



### **EASTER LILIES**

**Easter Day is *Sunday 31 March***. I realise that this is an early request for donations but I will need to order the lilies by mid-March. This doesn't give me much time if this notice only appears in the March edition of the magazine.

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*'.

*Jan Alexander*



## PCC Notes

PCC met early in January to ensure a smooth transfer into the interregnum period. The meeting focused primarily on the running of church business during this period and around the process of finding the right vicar to join our St John's family.

The PCC hope you will all feel confident that there are robust plans and teams in place to ensure that the services will continue as normal. We have visiting clergy booked to cover the 11am and Thursday morning services for several weeks with a willing team running the Zest services in house and added back up support from Andrew and Wendy where needed.

The interregnum process is underway with the Parish Profile and Parish Brochure being compiled by a small team in time for a Section 11 meeting at the end of January. At this meeting these important documents will be finalised and two members of the PCC will be appointed to represent the PCC during the selection of a new incumbent.

In other news:

**Finance** The treasurer reported a bank balance for the end of November 2023 of £25,961.64. The balance for the end of December 2023 has not been finalised following a banking

error in paying share for the month but this will be rectified in January to enable the end of year figures to be finalised and reported at the next meeting. Thanks was noted to those who organised the wonderful Christmas Quiz Supper which raised £514 for church funds. The treasurer will be coming to speak to all the congregations later this month to explain and encourage use of the new Parish Giving Scheme, details of which can also be found at the back of the church.

### Churchyard closure

The Ministry of Justice has now opened a 28-day period of community engagement to take any response to the proposed closure.

**Thank yous** Thank you wishes were recorded for the lovely Christmas trees that came from Acrecliffe and the beautiful festive flower arrangements created by our flower arranging team. Steve and family also sent heartfelt thanks to all those who organised, provided food and attended their leaving event on the 7 January.

**APCM** The dates for the PCC meetings in 2024 were discussed and approved, with the APCM due to be held on Sunday 28 April 2024.

*Catherine Meakin*



**This month:**

February 13      2.15pm      AGM and Shrovetide Social

*(Please note this is the second Tuesday in the month)*

Subscriptions have now been collected for coming year and our membership is remaining stable at 19 although attendances at meetings rarely average above 10, especially during the winter months.

We will be continuing our recent practice of meeting only once a month from now on as producing a varied programme is becoming ever more difficult. Any new ideas from members at the AGM would be much appreciated, and there will also be the opportunity to discuss more fully the way forward for our group. However, it is appreciated that our members value the fellowship obtained by being members of the Mothers' Union here at St John's with friends from church of many years standing.

~      ~      ~      ~      ~      ~      ~

It is regrettable to report that our link branch overseas at Bedford, Nova Scotia has had to close due to declining membership. We had a good relationship for many years because of our faithful link correspondent, Brenda Robinson, who became good friends with the Bedford correspondent after regularly exchanging news of our church and her own family.

We exchanged greetings at Christmas with our other link in Leeds Diocese – at Cumberworth near Huddersfield, and it is possible we might be able to meet up together again this year.

We wish a Happy New Year to all our members

*Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon*

## CHARITABLE GIVING for 2024



Details of the new charities can be found on the porch notice board.

Articles about the work of each of these charities will appear periodically in the magazine and it is hoped get a speaker from one of these charities in the summertime. Thank you to all who voted.

- WaterAid (355 votes) - international
- Shelter (370 votes) - national
- Behind Closed Doors (254 votes) - local

### WaterAid

We all need clean water, no matter who or where we are. And we all need to play our part so that everyone, everywhere can get it.

- 1 in 10 don't have clean water – and climate change is making it worse.
- By 2040, 1 in 4 children will be living in places where there is not enough water.
- 771 million people are still living without clean water close to home.

Water Aid changes millions of lives every year. It works in 26 countries to provide clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene for everyone, everywhere.

### SHELTER

The national charity Shelter helps people struggling with bad housing or homelessness through free advice, support and legal services.



SHELTER stands alongside everyone impacted by the housing crisis because home is everything. Yet, every day millions of people are being devastated by the housing emergency.

Shelter exists to defend the right to a safe home, helping people:

- **campaign for real change** so that other people won't have to face the same problems they are struggling with.
- **raise awareness in the media** of the housing emergency and the devastating impact that it is having on people's lives.
- **reach more people** struggling with bad housing or homelessness.
- **inspire people to donate**, volunteer, or take part in a Shelter event and raise the funds needed to continue with Shelter's vital work.

## **BEHIND CLOSED DOORS (BCD)**

No matter when or where, domestic abuse is always unacceptable. *BCD* supports everyone affected by it, regardless of their gender, age, race or sexual orientation and they act to prevent it.

### *WHAT IS DOMESTIC ABUSE?*

There are many different types of abuse. Most people can identify physical abuse but there are other more subtle forms which are equally as devastating.

- Emotional, verbal and sexual abuse;
- coercive control; financial abuse; cyber abuse are some of the most common.

Behind Closed Doors provide confidential information, offers practical help and supports recovery.

*Outreach Group*

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Exodus 2:13-4:23, 4:27-5:2

Moses: a Hebrew adopted by an Egyptian princess. He killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave, and hid the body.

The next day...



Why are you beating up one of your own people?

Are you going to kill me like you killed that Egyptian?



Moses had to run away from Egypt.



He went to Midian, got married and looked after his father-in-law's sheep.



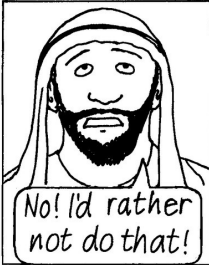
One day, on Sinai Mountain, he saw a burning bush that didn't burn up. Now God had got Moses' attention, He said..



You will go to Pharaoh and tell him to let my people leave Egypt.



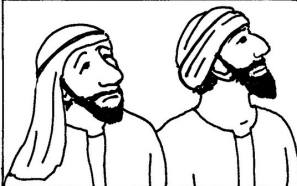
No! I'd rather not do that!



It's not a choice. Your brother Aaron can help you



Aaron and Moses met up and went to see Pharaoh



Our God says you must let all his people leave Egypt.



Your God means nothing to me. I will never change my mind. Your people can never leave!



# NOTICE BOARD

## ALTAR FLOWERS

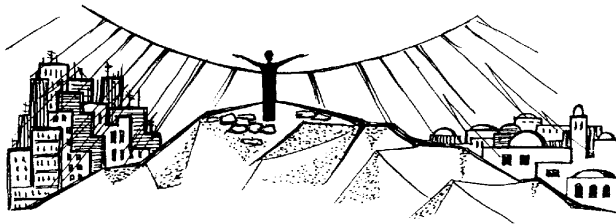
1 February                      Jenny Steele  
12 February                     Fiona Johnson

***Lent begins on Wednesday 14 February.*** In accordance with Church of England tradition there will be no flowers in church from then until Easter Day.

If you would like to ***sponsor*** the flowers for a week in the coming year, perhaps to remember a loved one or an anniversary, please add your name to the list in the porch. If you are unable to arrange them yourselves speak to Jan Alexander - a member of the church flower team will be happy to either do them for you or help you to do them yourself. Vases are quite acceptable containers.

A new flower rota will be placed in the church porch next month. Sincere thanks to all who have provided the lovely altar flowers during the last year - they help to enhance our worship.

*Jan Alexander*



## FROM THE REGISTERS

***FUNERAL SERVICES*** *We commend into the hands of Almighty God:*  
11 December 2023 Ben Downs R.I.P.  
15 December 2023 Angela Evans R.I.P.  
12 January 2024 Pamela Rhodes R.I.P.  
29 January 2024 Margaret (Peggy) Newton R.I.P.

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| ✓ Put up shelving         | ✓ Put up light fixtures      |                    |
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- Local shopping / errands

Please call to discuss your personal needs.

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**Excellent references available.**

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## **The House Keeper Domestic Support Team**

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We will happily help with cleaning, laundry, ironing, shopping, companionship and accompanied trips out.

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Fully insured and police checked - References available

**Contact Alyson Smith**  
**07734 428389 or 01943 871511**  
**Thehouse\_keeper@btinternet.com**

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