

2025

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MENSTON
PARISH CHURCH
St John the Divine



Trinity Sunday
15 June



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Excellent references available.

The Perfect Flower for TRINITY SUNDAY

The wonderful spring weather we have experienced has produced lovely displays from many plants in our gardens.

One of my favourite flowers at this time of year are irises, particularly the bearded ones. Examine the arrangement of petals and you'll find that they grow in threes thus making it the perfect flower for Trinity Sunday!



There are 3 standards (the petals that stick up), 3 falls (the petals that hang down with the lovely furry beards) and, if you look inside the standards, 3 more small petals - so 3:3:3 - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

J Alexander: Editor

This month

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Copy for the double JULY / AUGUST magazine is due by **Sunday 15 June**. 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 am writing the article just after our APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) for the year 2024. It probably was a bit long! Sorry! And well done for those who came and endured. But in some ways, I am not too apologetic for the length.

The year 2024 gave us much to reflect on and give thanks for – imagine if we had nothing to share and no-one to say thank you to?! It is important to take stock once a year, to be reflective and to take a moment to say yes that happened and yes, we did that, and yes God met us there.

It is too easy to always be looking ahead, and I can be very guilty of quickly moving on to the next problem to solve, the next thing on my to do list!

Remembering and reflecting is an important spiritual discipline. The Bible calls us time and time again to remember. Whether that is Jesus at the last supper, St Paul speaking to the churches, Moses reminding the Israelites or the Prophets calling the exiled to recall past deliverance.

This time last year you didn't know if anyone would even apply for the post of vicar, would God call anyone to St John's? Would he be faithful to this place and send someone to join in and lead?

Would St John's cope during interregnum, would you remain faithful, or turn away?

This time last year I did not know where God would call me next and what that would look like for my family and I.

Morning Prayer has been taking us through the early chapters of Deuteronomy - where the Israelites having been in the wilderness, are on the cusp of going into the Promised Land. I am struck by God's Word through Moses in Deuteronomy 6:10-12 : *When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham,*

Bible Bite

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 2:1-12, Mk 9:1-8, Lk 5:17-26

A short story from the Bible

The Pharisees had come to Jesus' home in Capernaum to make sure he wasn't breaking any of their religious rules...

So many came to hear Jesus speak that they filled his house... and the streets outside.

Four men brought their paralysed friend to Jesus for healing

But the crowd wouldn't let them get close so they climbed up to the roof and took off some tiles.

They lowered their friend down, right in front of Jesus

Jesus was so impressed by their faith, he said to the paralysed man
Your sins are forgiven.

The Pharisees were shocked!
Only God can forgive sins...so this fellow is insulting God!

But Jesus knew what they were thinking.
Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Get up, take your mat, and walk?'
Why are you thinking such wrong thoughts?

Get up, take your mat and go home!

He got up, picked up his mat and walked home, praising God

The crowd was amazed...
We have never seen anything like this!

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Miscellaneous observations:

If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve, its full potential, that word would be 'meetings'.

No matter what happens, somebody will find a way to take it too seriously.

Isaac and Jacob, to give you a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

That scripture has always really challenged me. My heart hears God's discipline. I know how I can become complacent in times of plenty. And maybe that is a particular challenge for us here in Menston, where our material blessings may seemingly numb our vulnerability and sense of dependence. But God does not call us to an anxious state, or to fearful obedience. Rather he calls us to remember his faithfulness and his love, to lean into it and respond to it, in times of plenty, and in times of need.

Remembering how faithful God has been to us, and how we have responded to that is good spiritual discipline. It keeps us focussed on the source of all good things, and will enable us to quickly recall his past victories when we face the next trial of life.

God is good.

He was faithful to us in 2024, and he will be faithful to us again in the year ahead.

Let us look to Him and listen.

May sunshine and blessings be yours this month,

Jo

FROM THE REGISTERS

Confirmation Service

20 May

Sarah Smith
Krishna Berwick Bahuleyan
Saisree Bahuleyan.



A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

I have a colleague from Latvia. She is excited as she and her family prepare for midsummer at the end of the month. There will be a huge gathering of Latvians – and others – at a camp site in the Midlands to sing and dance, eat and drink and celebrate together a festival important to their community.

It reminded me of the way we came together as a country in May to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day. The flags and the bunting, locked away after the Coronation, got another springtime outing as we marked an occasion important to our own communities.

Throughout the world there are dates and moments that bring joy to different people. The recent election of Pope Leo XIV was a cause for rejoicing and hope among Roman Catholics. June marks Pride month, a festival of great significance to the LGBTQ+ communities. Late April saw the anniversary of Vietnamese reunification – celebrated with gusto and delicious food by my Vietnamese learners.

I believe these stories are evidence of our desire to exist in like-minded groups. It helps to give us identity, a sense of belonging and a grounding in the continuation of our histories. There is, however, a downside to this. We can begin to exist in a bubble and engage in cultural superiority. There is a fine line between celebrating that which speaks to us and deriding that which does not.

So how do we stop ourselves from falling into the trap of thinking we are better than the rest? One way, of course, is to engage with other communities and see why their celebrations and commemorations are important to them. I was able to spend time with my Vietnamese learners as they celebrated their nation. I can vouch for the delicious food and the deep sense of pride they have for their country and its traditions. I can tell you, however, that I will not be camping with a load of well-libated Latvians to celebrate the longest day! I will join in marking the occasion in a more private manner and by wishing my colleague, her family and friends a joyous time. We do not need to understand the importance of these occasions, only to know that in bringing joy to others they are worthwhile.

When we reach out and embrace the cultures and traditions of others it is just as important as when we work to preserve our own. Celebrating and marking that which makes us all special increases our own sense of worth and value – and that is surely a very good thing.

(Continued from page 18)

Organised by Bradford's very own streetband – the Peace Artistes, HONK! will celebrate cultural diversity with school and community involvement and a brand new pick-up band for local musicians. Join us for a weekend of cultural celebration, echoing the global movement of HONK!, uniting communities through music and activism.

Climate Action Menston

On Tuesday 10 June at 7.30pm in Kirklands we will be meeting as part of **Great Big Green Week** - when a million people – just like you – will come together to be part of a wave of actions for friends and family, climate and nature. The idea is to swap stories/ideas that change the system, to make our communities better. By coming together, we'll also send a message loud and clear to our politicians and decision makers that we need to swap old ways for better ways now.

A recent survey of 130,000 people from 125 countries found that 89% wanted their national governments to do more to fight global heating and were willing to give 1% of their income to fight the climate crisis. However, they thought that only a minority of other people (43%) would be willing to do the same. (Source: The Guardian weekly 2 May 2025). So come along on 10 June and show you are part of that majority who do care and want more done!

If you would like to know more about what we do, contact Marilyn or see www.climateactionmenston.org.uk



COMMUNITY NEWS

Menston Heritage Group

The Heritage Trail leaflet is now available! Copies at church and in the library etc.

We have been promoting the trail through Bradford 2025 and hoping that visitors will enjoy a visit to our village by making use of the trail. Visitors have already been spotted!

In July, we will be hosting a group from inner city Bradford to walk the trail and offer hospitality having secured funding from a Culture is Cohesion grant.

Bradford 2025

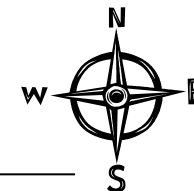
Via the Heritage Group, Menston is now linked in with Carys Bose who is one of their 'Networkers'. Working with the Scout and Guides in Menston there is a plan to launch 'Love Menston' products that can be sold to fundraise for the new Scout and Guide HQ and will be launched at the Menston Show on 6 September.

Also on Saturday 27 September from 11-1pm Menston will be one of the venues for the street band festival. This is from the website:

As part of Bradford City of Culture 2025, HONK! Bradford will transform the Bradford District into a vibrant hub of live acoustic music, featuring street performances by bands from across the world, stunning costumes, and audience participation.



Prayer Points



This month sees the great Christian festival of Pentecost. Fifty days after Easter. All the followers of Jesus were gathered together in Jerusalem for the Spring grain festival of Shavuot. It is also when Jewish people remember Moses receiving the commandments on Mount Sinai. As the followers of Jesus gathered the Holy Spirit appeared as tongues of living fire, an outpouring on God's people. In Hebrew and Greek the word Spirit is female and inanimate and means breath or wind:

Loving God you pour your Spirit upon all flesh,
although we try to fence her in, Lord have mercy.

You speak to us through many languages, whilst
we block out foreign accents, Christ have mercy.

You make one body from all our gifts, yet we refuse
to be connected to one another, Lord have mercy.

God of wind and flame, we praise you for your wild
beauty, flying free in the fresh air. Your Spirit
nurtured life in outrageous diversity, and was
poured out on all flesh, crossing the line between
male and female, slave and free, Jew and gentile.

Therefore with all Gods rainbow people, and all
who have tasted the Spirit of Life, with all those
who dare to dream, and those who see visions of
hope, we worship you as heaven touches earth.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Amen.

With thanks to Revd Andrew Howorth for this month's Prayer Points

ECO CHURCH NEWS

Thanks to those who took part/organised the eco quiz. Who thought trees could be so difficult to identify!.



I have since heard that Client Earth - one of the charities to identify in the quiz has secured this statement from Coca Cola:

Coca-Cola will change some of its labelling practices to remove misleading recycling claims in a move announced by the European Commission following a greenwashing complaint that we supported.

Misleading claims you may recognise such as **'I am a bottle made from 100% recycled plastic'** will be replaced across the EU, and Coca-Cola will also ensure that product labels and marketing materials do not mislead consumers about the environmental benefits of the packaging, including the use of green imagery or symbols. So legal pressure does work! Want to know more: <https://www.clientearth.org/>

Eco tips for June

1. Talk to a friend or family member this week about your concerns about an environmental issue. Listen to what they think. Share one thing you have done or want to do to be good news for all creation.
2. Join in with **Great Big Green Week** - share your story about your care for our world at the next CAM meeting on 10 June at 7.30 in Kirklands

If you are interested in joining the eco group, do get in touch. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 18 June at 7.45pm.

Marilyn, Catherine, Sally, Matthew and Jen



This month:

4 June Please note change of day from Tuesday to Wednesday. Outing to Yorkgate Garden and cafe, Adel will leave Menston at 12 noon. Lunch soon after arrival.

Arrangements have been made for members to be picked up by designated car drivers at this time, but if members have any queries prior to this, please contact Dorothy Slater on 879536.

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At our annual fundraising meeting on 6 May, members enjoyed lunch and an afternoon of fellowship raising £130 for MU charities. This will be divided between two charities: The MU Overseas Relief Fund and AFIA (Away from it all Holidays).

AFIA is one of our most popular charities to support, as it offers free caravan holidays for families undergoing problems or hardships, and who can be referred to the MU by various sources, e.g. the clergy or social services. The MU Diocese of Leeds and the former MU Bradford Diocese, own two caravans at Primrose Valley near Filey, and they provide a wonderful break for the families – especially the children, with lots of activities for them to enjoy.

Special thanks to all our members who faithfully attend our monthly meetings (average attendance 14) and whose financial contributions throughout the year go towards our MU charities in this country and overseas, supporting families whose lives have met with adversity.

Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon



A Universal Prayer of Humility

Whilst in hospital at the end of his life on earth, the late Pope Francis referred people to the following prayer. It is a prayer that speaks of how to overcome the trivialities of life and focus on that which should be important to us all. There is no evidence that he wrote the prayer.

'The walls of hospitals have heard more honest prayers than churches. They have witnessed far more sincere kisses than those in airports. It is in hospitals that you see a homophobe being saved by a gay doctor, a privileged doctor saving the life of a beggar. In intensive care, you see a Jew taking care of a racist, a police officer and a prisoner in the same room receiving the same care, a wealthy patient waiting for a liver transplant, ready to receive the organ from a poor donor.'

It is in these moments, when the hospital touches the wounds of people, that different worlds intersect according to a divine design. And in this communion of destinies, we realize that alone, we are nothing. The absolute truth of people, most of the time, only reveals itself in moments of pain or in the real threat of an irreversible loss.

A hospital is a place where human beings remove their masks and show themselves as they truly are, in their purest essence.

This life will pass quickly, so do not waste it fighting with people. Do not criticize your body too much. Do not complain excessively. Do not lose sleep over bills. Make sure to hug your loved ones. Do not worry too much about keeping the house spotless. Material goods must be earned by each person - do not dedicate yourself to accumulating an inheritance.

You are waiting for too much: Christmas, Friday, next year, when you have money, when love arrives, when everything is perfect.

Listen, perfection does not exist. A human being cannot attain it because we are simply not made to be fulfilled here. Here, we are given an opportunity to learn. So, make the most of this trial of life - and do it now.

Respect yourself, respect others. Walk your own path and let go of the path others have chosen for you. Respect: do not comment, do not judge, do not interfere.

Love more, forgive more, embrace more, live more intensely! And leave the rest in the hands of the Creator.

24 hour BIBLE BASH . . . and PRAYER SLAM

Several years ago, to encourage our reading of the Bible we all took part in a 24 hour Bible reading event. People were invited to sign up and come along to church over a period of 24 hours and read aloud for 15 minutes. It was a great community event with lots of people popping in and out to see how far we had got, and many people came back on multiple slots to take part.

SO! We are doing it again. 9.30am on Saturday 28 June we will be starting with verse 1 chapter 1 of Matthew's gospel and seeing how far we can get through the New Testament.

To succeed we need YOU! Just 15 minutes sometime between 9.30am on Saturday through until 9.30AM on Sunday, ending at Zest!

So whether you are a lark or an owl there are slots for you. The rest will be filled in by the deranged and slightly bonkers team organising the event you could join that too if you wish.

So, what on earth is a Prayer Slam? During the 24 hour session there will be prayer stations set up around church focusing on different topics, you are invited to come along and add your prayers to the different stations.

We do hope and pray that the whole of our St John's family will get involved in some way, even if it's just popping into listen for a while to encourage the readers, offer a cuppa, or say a prayer.

Do please support this event and help us as a family to get more Bible savvy and to pray for our world. Sign up forms are at the back of church. Thank you.

Andrew

Saturday 21st June, 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
text 07440289248, or leave
a message at 01943 872433.
In aid of church funds.



MUSIC in the AIR

We are looking forward to hearing from a wide range of local musicians at our next Music in the Air concert on Saturday 21 June between 3-5pm in church.

Tickets £5 together with tea/coffee and cake now available. Please spread the word and bring along family and friends to enjoy hearing from very talented musicians.

Help with setting up the staging would be much appreciated. Many hands etc! Also, offers of baking and help to serve the refreshments also needed.



Marilyn

LADIES PLEASE CONCERT

Ladies Please celebrate their twentieth birthday this year, twenty years of singing together and raising over £20,000 for charities local and overseas.

To mark the occasion we are holding a Gala Celebration Concert on Saturday 14 June at 2.00pm at Menston Methodist Church Hall. And there'll be cake!

Tickets will be priced at £7.50. We hope you'll celebrate with us.

For more information about this or about the choir, why not contact the Secretary Elizabeth Sharp on 01943 872067 or 07860 786149?

**ST JOHN'S,
MENSTON**

**BIBLE
BASH**

**9.30AM SATURDAY 28TH JUNE
- 9.30AM SUNDAY 29TH JUNE**

**Reading through the
New Testament -
volunteers needed to read!**

You can find the form at the
back of church to sign up
for one (or more!) slots

PLUS

**PRAYER
SLAM**

**We invite you to visit one or more of
the prayer stations over this period
and offer prayers for the world**

www.stjohnmenston.org.uk See Rev Andrew for more information

Worship this month

1 June The Seventh Sunday of EASTER
Readings: Acts 16: 16-34; John 17: 20-26
Reader: Sai Bahuleyan

9.30am Zest
 11.00am Parish Eucharist

8 June PENTECOST
Readings: TBA
Reader: Dominic Hall

9.30am Zest with Communion
 11.00am Parish Eucharist

15 June TRINITY SUNDAY
Readings: Romans 5: 1-5; John 16: 12-15
Reader: Julie West

9.30am Zest
 11.00am Parish Eucharist
 3.00pm Core in the Parish Room

22 June The First Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: 1 Kings 19: 1-4, 8-15a; Luke 8: 26-39
Reader: David Machin

9.30am Zest
 11.00am Parish Eucharist

29 June The Second Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: 2 Kings 2: 1-2, 6-14; Luke 9: 51-62
Reader: Heather Greig

9.30am Zest
 11.00am Parish Eucharist

6 July The Third Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: 2 Kings 5: 1-14; Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20
Reader: Dorothy Slater

9.30am Zest
 11.00am Parish Eucharist

MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

9.30am Thursdays: 5 / 12 / 19 / 26 June; 3 July

Everyone is welcome to the *Church Picnic* which will take place in the Parish Room on Sunday 13 July from 12 noon. Please bring your own food and enjoy each other's company!



ALTAR FLOWERS

19 June Judith Knaggs

The rota for the coming year is in the church porch. Thank you to all who have signed up but quite a few dates remain - can you help? It's not only a lovely way to remember an anniversary or a loved one - it also enhances our worship.

APCM ELECTION RESULTS

Churchwardens:
 Dominic Hall and Julie West

Deanery Synod
2 vacancies until May 2026

PCC: to serve for 3 years
Until APCM 2028
 Hilary Feathers

1 vacancy until APCM 2026

The first meeting of the new PCC elected James Sheppard as

Treasurer. Iain Johnson is Assistant Treasurer for the coming year.

The Parish Office is closed from Friday 30 May, reopening Thursday 19 June. The administrator will be available remotely from Tuesday 17 June. If you have any notices to go in the Parish Notes on 1, 8 or 16 June please send them to the administrator by 5pm on Wednesday 28 May.