

2022

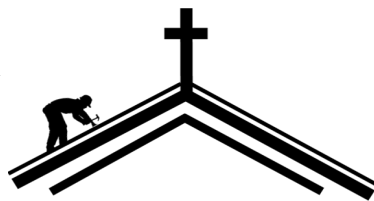
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MENSTON
PARISH CHURCH
St John the Divine



60p

Roof Appeal



TOTAL TO DATE (with Gift Aid) £161, 489.76

We are still short of our fundraising target (*see Treasurer's report pages 8 & 9*) so it is not too late to donate either by

BACS to: Menston PCC 40-22-28 A/C 40572640
Reference (most imp) : Roof + surname

Cheque payable to **Menston PCC**. Please send to the Treasurer, Hillcrest, Kelcliffe Lane, Guiseley, Leeds LS20 9DE or post through the Parish Office letterbox.

If you are a taxpayer please consider Gift Aid. A gift aid declaration form is available from the Treasurer if he does not have your details.

This month

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Copy for the MARCH magazine is due by **Sunday 13 February**. Please email copy to both editor and Parish Office (***office@stjohnmenston.org.uk***) or leave copy for typing with the office.

Dear Friends

In the last quarter of 2021 those who attended services voted on which charities we would support from our general giving at St John's. Whilst money is tight and there are so many competing demands upon it (including our own church roof!), it is really important that we remain a generous church community, not just to the work of God in Menston, but elsewhere as well – locally, nationally and internationally.

Our generosity means that our charitable giving in 2021 included as its main four partners, the Anglican Diocese of Leeds, USPG, Church Action on Poverty, and Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (Beacon).

As I reflect upon the start of 2022 and the continuing same pressures that we have lived with over the last few years, I feel privileged to be part of a community that continues to resource others in times of difficulties and scarcity. It would be so easy to withdraw and concentrate on feathering our own nests, personally and as a community. But instead, we have committed to these charities in 2021, even funding some of our giving from the far-from-flush reserves we have as a church.

This does, however, leave us with issues in the coming year of how to remain a generous church when also trying to pay for a roof, do other serious maintenance jobs, and try to balance our own books. I'm telling you this, not to try to con you out of more money, but simply to be open and honest about where we are. I'm seeking to treat everyone

as grown-ups in a family, being open about it rather than making finances of church a shadowy no-go area.

This year, money will be tight. We will need to talk about regular giving and legacies, and also about roof fundraising. We will need to discuss how fantastic it is when every individual is generous with their money and supports their own particular choice of charity privately, but also how it's an amazing thing when the church can give together, particularly as we all have a say in where this giving now goes (because of the new voting system).

In Menston, we are generally (and relatively) well-off people. We therefore shoulder responsibility, not just for ourselves, but for others. We cannot pray 'Give us our daily bread' and then withhold our excess from others. I'm proud of the giving last year. I'm also concerned about the finances this year and how we will be able to be as generous again.

This is not the place for a theology of giving and generosity, but simply a place to say, this is our situation. All of us can consider for ourselves how it may apply to us without any pressure or coercion.

In the meantime, let's all commit to praying for our charitable partners too so that we don't just simply become donors, but people who are generous in time, money and prayer.

God bless you all this year.

Steve

A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

After the excesses of the Christmas season, we are probably all a little sick of the word 'treat'. It is, however, an interesting word to explore. As a verb, treat relates to the importance of the way we interact with each other. We can treat people with respect, we can treat them with cruelty, disdain, kindness or love. As a noun, a treat is something we can reward people with and that could include ourselves.

A few weeks ago, I was in the supermarket chocolate aisle, a place to which I am no stranger! My eye was drawn to a pack of Fry's Chocolate Cream (trust me, many other chocolates are available). What drew my attention was a burst of memory. Growing up we were not allowed sweets. Whether they were an unnecessary expense or a dental detriment I cannot remember. What I do recall is the joy of a Christmas morning knowing that there would be a bar of Fry's Chocolate Cream in my stocking and in those of my brothers.

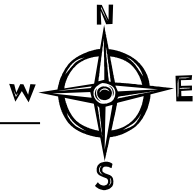
The memory set me thinking about the importance of little treats. It would be easy as an adult to put chocolates in my shopping basket on a weekly basis. However, having them only once in a while increases the excitement, memory and joy that they provide.

In the hustle and bustle of daily life it is often easy to overlook ourselves. How often do we say, 'Oh don't worry about me,' or "'ll relax later,?' Merging the verb and noun we should not be apologetic to treat ourselves to treats now and again. Looking after ourselves is of paramount importance as it allows us to better deal with all that we have to face every day.

The challenge, then, is to find something that you enjoy and make a moment in the month when that happens for you. Much to my dentist's relief, my treat to myself these days is a trip to the movies on Friday afternoons. The cinema is quiet in the middle of the day and, as the announcement before the film says, I can 'switch off the phone and switch off from the outside world.' Whilst I lose myself in the fantasies, comedies and dramas from Hollywood and elsewhere, I have a couple of hours, to think about something meaningless, to refocus and re-energise ready to face the world again, safe in the knowledge that the cinema will be there as a haven of relaxation next time!

Whatever you choose, I hope you have some time to treat yourself.

Prayer Points



A prayer for mission

Lord of light – shine on us;
Lord of peace – dwell in us;
Lord of might – succour us;
Lord of love – enfold us;
Lord of wisdom – enlighten us.
Then, Lord, let us go out as your witnesses,
In obedience to your command;
to share the good news of your mighty love for us
in the gift of your son,
our saviour Jesus Christ. *The Church in Wales*

A prayer for those who have been bereaved

The Kontakion for the dead.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with the saints:
where sorrow and pain are no more,
Neither sighing, but life everlasting.

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of all:
and we are mortal, formed from the dust of the earth,
and unto earth shall we return.

For so you ordained when you created me, saying:
'Dust you are and to dust you shall return.'

All of us go down to the dust,
yet weeping at the grave we make our song:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with the saints:
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting. *Eastern Orthodox prayer,
translation from Common Worship: Pastoral Services*

A prayer for the family

Father in Heaven,
who by the grace of your Son Jesus Christ
has made us sons and daughters in the Family of God,
grant your blessing upon the families
to which by nature we belong;
cherish all our loved ones,
and bind us to one another in those sacred bonds
that neither life nor death shall ever break. *James Ferguson*

With thanks to Doug Rice-Bowen for this month's Prayer Points

Update on the Church Roof Appeal

Our appeal for funds to replace the church roof has produced a magnificent response. Many thanks to members of the congregation, residents of Menston and further afield, and fundraisers who have organised events, who have given so generously and have currently raised £113,735. Trusts and Foundations we approached for grants inform us that, in the current situation, they have less funds than usual to disburse, so we have been disappointed in their response to our grant applications. Nevertheless, we are very grateful for grants totalling £16,500 from Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust, the Garfield Weston Trust, AllChurches Trust, the Spooner Trust, and the Diocese of Leeds.

When the Fabric Fund reserve, accumulated over previous years, is included, this means we have exceeded our target of £140,000 set in January 2020 which was the estimated cost of full replacement of the church roof at the time. **So, well done and thank you all!**

But, and I am afraid it is a big ‘but’, building and materials costs have rocketed by 40% during the pandemic and, we are advised, are likely to continue rising sharply. The PCC were, therefore, dismayed to find that an estimate from the contractor in October 2021 had risen to £201,000, and the contractor could not agree a contract at this price as there is a delay of 5-6 months between ordering and delivery of the required slates, and building costs would rise over this period.

	Estimated costs Pickles Estimate		Available funds as at 20/12/2021
	Jan 2020	Oct 2021	
Spooner Trust			1,000.00
Diocese of Leeds			1,000.00
AllChurches Trust			3,000.00
Garfield Weston Trust			7,500.00
Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust			4,000.00
National Churches Trust			0.00
Total grants			16,500.00
Reserves(restricted Fabric fund)			30,000.00
Congregational giving			75,154.04
Community giving			8,870.38
Fundraising events			12,638.34
Gift Aid claimed			18,327.00
	142,659	201,011	161,489.76
Current excess/ shortfall	17,304	-41,048	

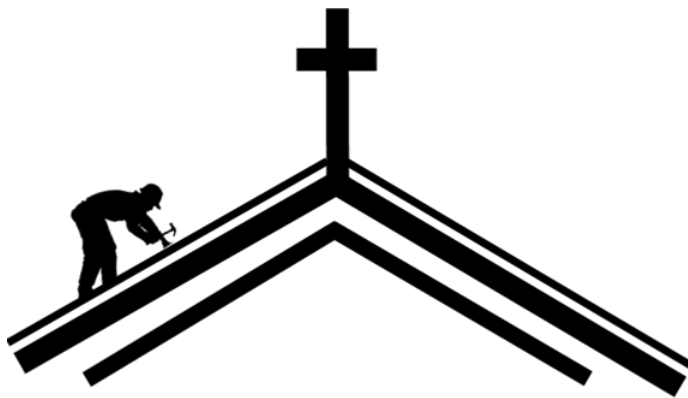
The PCC have deliberated the way forward and feel that we need to get on and do something. Continuing to fund-raise while chasing a moving target results in too much uncertainty, risks losing some time-limited grants, and is disrespectful of our donors who have given so generously during an uncertain time. So after lengthy discussion and consultation with the architect and contractor the PCC have agreed:

1. To order the slates now. This will require some financial outlay immediately, but the contractor will take delivery and storage space will not be required at the church.
2. When a delivery date is known and pending, the funds available at that time will determine precisely how much of the proposed works can be undertaken without jeopardising the overall integrity of the roof. At that point we will be able to agree a contract at a price we can afford.

The PCC, as trustees of the charity, believes that this plan will satisfy the requirement to make best use of the funds raised while also ensuring that the majority of the roof is replaced in the summer of 2022.

In the meantime, the appeal remains open, and further donations will be very gratefully received. The more we raise now, the greater proportion of the plan can be fulfilled.

Colin Alexander, Treasurer



CHARITABLE GIVING for 2021

As Steve mentions in his magazine letter, the new parish voting system which took place in October, November and December selected USPG, Church Action on Poverty, and Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (Beacon) as the international, national and local charities which St John's supported in 2021.

A brief outline of the work of each of these charities follows as a reminder of our choices. Plans to highlight their work throughout the year will help us all to learn more about their work.

USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel)

Founded in 1701, USPG has long established relationships with churches of the Anglican Communion. USPG enables the Gospel to be lived out, on OUR behalf, in the wider world, beyond our direct reach. They believe that today's major challenges, exacerbated by the global pandemic, cry out for words and actions that express a love and solidarity that goes beyond narrow self-interest and national boundaries.

In the face of environmental degradation, turbulent global politics, gender injustice, the forced displacement of millions of people and the harassment and killing of indigenous peoples - they believe the churches of the Anglican Communion are called urgently in mission to be communities of resistance and hope, witnesses to the healing power of Christ's love. www.uspg.org.uk

CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY

Church Action on Poverty is a national ecumenical Christian social justice charity, committed to tackling poverty in the UK. they work in partnership with churches, and with people in poverty themselves, to tackle the root causes of poverty.

For instance: Tackling unjust Government policies... amplifying the voices of people who have been marginalised... challenging harmful business practices... holding the Church to account. Everything they do aims to make UK society more just and compassionate, not just now but for the long term. Food banks and hands out are not enough..

They set up Food Pantries - member run food clubs, rather than food banks. *‘This is much more dignified – you can choose to become a member, choose to volunteer. It’s your project and the local ownership of it is really important.’*

They support self reliant groups where people meet, share ideas and save together which have the potential to become a business. Currently they are campaigning to ‘End Hunger Now’ alongside the Trussell Trust and other charities. ***www.church-poverty.org.uk***

BEACON ASYLUM CENTRE stands for **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern** which was set up by Bradford churches out of a shared concern for the practical and spiritual needs of asylum seekers and refugees who now live in the Bradford area. They have 4 projects:

- **CHAT** It provides care and hospitality at Phoenix house, Thornbury – a chance for asylum seekers and refugees to socialise, have refreshments and be involved in English conversation. It also provides support at the tribunal court.
- **McKenzie Friends** are members of the public, without legal training, who volunteer to assist appellants when they have no legal representative and at a time that is often bewildering and full of anxiety. They are independent of the court system and the Home Office.
- **Beacon Hosting Project** Volunteers are trained and supported to become hosts who provide a home to destitute, refused asylum seekers. They are provided with a secure, supportive environment in which they have the opportunity to gather fresh evidence in order to submit an asylum claim.
- **Hosting** offers short, medium and sometimes longer-term accommodation, within the homes of volunteer hosts, to asylum seekers who are destitute or who have critical housing needs.

Funds are needed for refreshments, legal support, IT equipment, bus passes, mobile phones etc. ***www.beaconbradford.org***

Outreach Group

Worship this month

6 Feb The Fourth Sunday before LENT
Readings: James 1: 19-27; Luke 5: 1-11
Reader: Elizabeth Leopold

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist
6.00pm The Junction: *Galatians 5*

13 Feb The Third Sunday before LENT
Readings: James 2: 14-26; Luke 6: 17-26
Reader: Heather Greig

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist
6.00pm The Junction: *Galatians 6*

20 Feb The Second Sunday before LENT
Readings: James 3: 1-12; Luke 8: 22-25
Reader: Joyce Simpson

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist
6.00pm The Junction:

27 Feb The Sunday next before LENT
Readings: James 4: 1-10; Luke 9: 28-36
Reader: David Machin

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist
6.00pm The Junction:

6 Mar The First Sunday of LENT
Readings: James 5: 7-18; Luke 4: 1-13
Reader: Dorothy Slater

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist
6.00pm The Junction:

WORSHIP NOTES

MID-WEEK SERVICES OF HOLY COMMUNION

*9.30am Thursdays: 3 / 10 /
17 / 24 February and 3 March.*

ASH WEDNESDAY 2 March

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

GREEN TIPS for this month

Create clean air

‘You can never have enough house plants,’ says Oliver Heath, who runs a sustainable architecture practice.



Certain plants are best for certain rooms:

- Mother-in-law’s tongue gives off oxygen at night, which makes it best suited to the bedroom.
- Peace lilies and Boston ferns thrive in rooms with high humidity and can reduce the mould spores in the air, making them ideal for bathrooms
- Weeping figs have been found to be the best plant for removing formaldehyde released from carpets and furniture, making them good for living areas.

Outreach Group

SCRAMBLED ABBEYS QUIZ

Each set of letters can be rearranged to give the name of an English abbey or priory. Answers can be found, upside down as usual, on page 17.

1. A F I. N. N. O. S. T. U
2. E. E. I. M. N. R. S. S. T. T. W
3. B. H. I. T. W. Y
4. A. E. H. H M X
5. A. B. E. L T. T
6. B. E. E. H. N. O. R. R. S
7. B. E. L. S. Y
8. B. E. E K R. S. T U. W. Y
9. A. B. C. F. K. S. T. U
10. A. D. E. F. I. I. L. N N. R. S

Heather Greig

Miscellaneous observations on daily life

Don't judge a book by its movie.

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail and not his tongue.

PCC Notes

Steve read from the Song of Songs and led the opening prayers. Regular routine business was completed during the meeting.

After a year of fund raising the Treasurer reported that the amount raised had reached the a total of £129,000, of which £16,500 in grants had been awarded. The PCC was told that with £30,000 reserves in the Fabric Fund, £160,000 was available for the work.

This report led into an extensive and in-depth discussion about the project, in which there were differing views about the best way forward. The difficulty was caused by the steep rise in building materials, which had driven up the cost of the complete project to £201,000. Even at that figure, the contractor would not agree to that price because of the inevitable delay in starting work because of administrative procedures and the supply of materials. Prices are rising so quickly that it is impossible to estimate where they will be in six months.

Everyone was aware that considerable uncertainty attached to whatever decision was made. Eventually, by a vote, it was decided that the slates should be ordered as soon as possible in


order to 'freeze' their escalating cost. There is a delay of perhaps 5 or 6 months for the delivery of the slates. When delivered, they will be a stored by the contractor and at that time it will be possible to assess how much of the work can be undertaken. In the meantime, fundraising will continue.

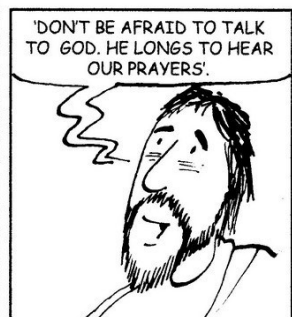
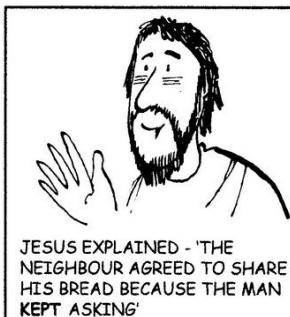
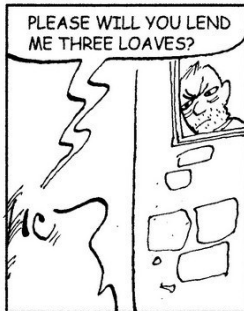
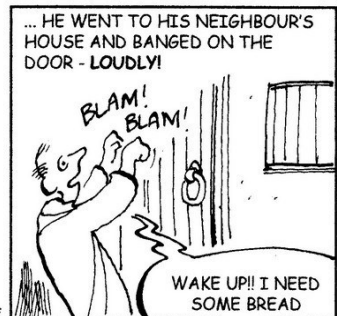
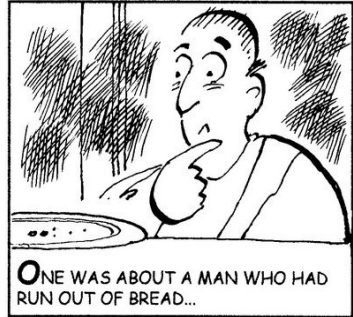
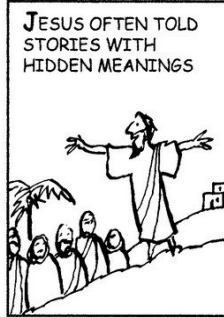
Difficulties in financing the roof replacement had led to one lengthy discussion and the same problem underlay a second. The income of the parish has declined in 2021 (although it held up well compared with many other parishes). We have a policy of contributing 5% of our unrestricted income to charitable causes.

The PCC decided by a majority decision to pay in full both our Diocesan Share and also to honour the 5% giving to charitable causes, accepting that this will reduce our financial reserves to below the ideal.

Peter Wilbraham



The Tale of 
The Friend
at
Midnight



This month:

It is pleasing to report that at the beginning of 2022 our group has a membership of 21, which is very encouraging for our future. We are pleased to welcome a new member, Wendy Thornhill, who moved to Menston a short time ago and later joined our church congregation.

Our thanks go to Mrs Glenys Prince who gave a very interesting talk at our last meeting about the work she is undertaking with an historical group in Ilkley into the history of Rylstone in North Yorkshire. The village dates back to Roman times with many interesting features and Glenys had many maps and photographs to illustrate her talk, along with several amusing entries from the church registers. She also gave an insight into how life must have been in times gone by, the occupations of the residents and the sort of lives they led in a small, isolated village.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Next meeting:

1 February 2.15pm Parish Room - Musical Afternoon
Please bring a CD of your favourite music/song

A Happy New Year to all our members.

Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon

Answers to Abbey Quiz: 1 Fountains; 2 Westminster; 3 Whitby;
4 Hexham; 5 Battle; 6 Sherborne; 7 Selby; 8 Tewkesbury; 9 Buckfast;
10 Lindisfarne

Medical terms for non-medical people

Bacteria: the back door to cafeteria

Barium: what doctors do when patients die

Caesarean section: a neighbourhood in Rome

Catscan: searching for kitty

Cauterize: made eye contact with her

Coma: a punctuation mark

Enema: not a friend

Fester: quicker than someone else

Labour Pain: getting hurt at work

Nitrates: cheaper than day rates

Outpatient: a person who has fainted

Post-operative: a letter carrier

Recovery room: place to do upholstery

Parish News Service



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MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2022 are due to be collected with delivery of this issue. The cost of the magazine remains at *60p per copy, £6 for the year*. Please make cheques payable to **'Menston PCC'**. This is a change as the separate Magazine account is now

closed. If you know someone who might like to receive the magazine please ring Charmian Thomas 873865 to arrange delivery. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to arrange a postal delivery which includes a charge to cover postage.

FROM THE REGISTERS

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

10 January John William (Stan) Hill

ALTAR FLOWERS

Lent begins on Wednesday 2 March - so no flowers in church from then until Easter Day. A new flower rota will be placed in the church porch next month. Sincere thanks to all who have provided flowers in church during the last year.



Light Up St John's – Floodlight Sponsorship

17 Feb Remembering my Mum with love

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

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