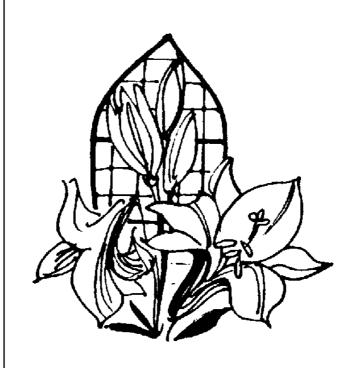
2020

MENSTON
PARISH CHURCH
St John the Divine

A P R I L



60p

Easter Day 12 April

From the Editor

There is much food for thought in this month's magazine, thinking of two inspiring letters from Steve and Andrew in particular.

I had hoped that magazine could continue - it is one of the ways we can continue to communicate as a church. However, although Glenys printed it, the new restrictions didn't allow Elizabeth to collate it and it would have been impossible to deliver it to everyone. We hope that you get to read this edition in a few months time! In the meantime we are trying to upload it to the website.

I hope to produce another magazine in a few weeks time - we shall see how life develops. It would be wonderful to receive articles, small or large; amusing, informative, whatever appeals to you.

My thanks go to this month's contributors, Glenys and Elizabeth and Charmian for their willingness to pursue our goal of an April Magazine.

My good wishes to you all - may you keep safe and well. Jan

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Albany Row

Dear Friends

As I write this we are in troubled times; national borders closed, European streets cleared, people self-isolating and many feeling anxious about what has happened, is happening, will happen.

We have faced terrible things before, as members of the human race...the fear of the plague, the terror of the blitz, the horror of the holocaust - but this is different, this is US, and this is NOW. The Archbishops have instructed us to insist on hand washing, offer Eucharist only in the form of the wafer, ceasing offering one another the peace, and no longer ministering a laying on of hands as a blessing. For many it feels like dark days...

I was thinking of one of my favourite books as a child, and the feelings of fear, loss and insecurity which I experienced whilst reading one chapter. I wonder if you remember reading it too? ...

'I wonder could we untie him?' Said Susan presently. But the enemies out of pure spitefulness had drawn the cords so tight that the girls could make nothing of the knots.

I hope no one who reads this book has been quite as miserable as Susan and Lucy were that night; but if you have been - if you've been up all night and cried till you have no more tears left in you - you will know that there comes in the end a sort of quietness. You feel as if nothing was ever going to happen again. At any rate that was how it felt to those two. Hours and hours seemed to go by in this dead calm, and they hardly noticed that they were getting colder. But at last Lucy noticed two things. One was that the sky on the east side of the hill was a little less dark than it had been an hour ago. The other was some tiny movement going on in the grass at her feet.

If you are unfamiliar with CS Lewis 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe', then I will not spoil it for you. But out of that dark waiting time comes hope and the offer of something new.

We are in the last few days of Lent, with the pain, loss, agony and then the wonderful joy of Easter all still to come, and it feels very poignant this year. The experts in public health are warning that COVID -19 may well peak in the UK over Easter, adding to the dark waiting time.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when Jesus was put on the cross. At noon, a strange darkness blotted out the fierce brightness of the sun. Then Jesus called out in a loud voice, 'it is finished!' And gave up his life.

But the Gospel news is that God did not abandon his son on the Cross, and he does not abandon us in our loss and fear. Little by little the sky grows less dark, and signs of hope reappear, often slightly different from before, but still offering new life, and hope and joy.

The truth is that we cannot get to the resurrection joy, without the agony and loss of Good Friday, and right now globally we cannot get beyond this international virus without it changing the world significantly. We have to feel the pain, experience the hurt, look loss in the eye.

We are not certain where this virus really came from, but it's a wake up call about good housekeeping on a global scale. It's more than fighting climate change. It's about being good stewards looking after creation and that means looking after each other too. We are as a planet in this together. Our prayers are for each other, transporting us beyond national borders, racial tribes, or generational groups. We have to follow the guidance given, but not loose heart, hold on to the faith of Christ crucified and gloriously resurrected.

Jesus lives! Our hearts know well Nought from us his love shall sever; Life, nor death, nor powers of hell, Part us now from Christ for ever: Alleluia!

God bless you and yours, as we keep each other in our prayers each day.

With love,

Andrew

A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

In 'The Waste Land', TS Eliot talks about April being the cruellest month - a time when the renewal of the land stirs memories and desires that winter frigidity had kept blissfully hidden. Geoffrey Chaucer's 'The Canterbury Tales' takes a different view. He sees in April's renewal a cause for celebration as new life is born and the earth refreshes and regenerates itself.

The latter of these two reflections seems to me in keeping with the Christian message. In 2020 Easter falls in this month and it is seen by many as a time to renew and replenish our faith as we mark the single most significant act in our salvation – the resurrection.

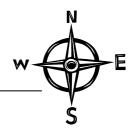
I am often reminded how difficult a task that is. We have the benefit of hindsight so our faith is tested only so far. Our truths have been baked in the oven of history for two millennia. Imagine being one of the contemporary followers of Jesus. They may have been familiar with the prophecy he was sent to fulfil but I am sure there will have been many dark moments as they stood and watched his arrest, show trials and crucifixion. The cruelty shown by Roman and Jewish leaders seems designed to maximise the humiliation of this radical man and send a warning to others. It must have been a supreme test of faith to watch as events played out, knowing that at any moment they could be next.

My non-Christian friends (and by this I mean those of no faith rather than of other faiths) see the Easter story as either a fantasy or an effort at control by the Church. I think that rather misses the point. Stories are shared for many reasons. I think early Christians retold stories to educate, to inform, to instruct and to bind together a community which, in its infancy, faced a real threat to its existence. The purpose of the resurrection, for me at least, is that it binds us together in a shared experience. This helps to build communities and create a world in which caring for each other is treasured. At spring time this might involve us opening up our homes again, letting in the light and the air and generally refreshing our world.

With natural, social and political disasters happening on a worryingly regular basis, letting in the light, binding together and refreshing the world seems to be an awfully good and genuinely Christian thing to do.

I hope you all have a wonderful and refreshing Easter season.

Prayer Points



In Lent as we look to Easter

It is Well with my Soul

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way When sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot. Thou has taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come Let this blest assurance control, That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate, And hath shed his own blood for my soul

It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul

This extract from the hymn writer Horatio Spafford (who himself endured terrible sorrow) reminds us in an uncertain and difficult world of the promise of Gods Love. In the coming weeks with the global situation of Corona virus let us not lose sight of his love.

Let us use Lent for reflection as we prepare for the agony and then the triumph of Easter.



With thanks to David Mercer for this month's Prayer Points

Deanery Synod ~ February 2020

As Bishop Toby does not usual attend our Synod meetings, I thought it would be appropriate to share an overview of the points he made.

He reflected on his five years as Bishop of Bradford and how much he enjoys and is challenged by it. He explained that he would be taking part in the discussions on 'Living in Love and Faith' which is the C of E programme concerning sexuality/transgender/marriage etc with a view to a decision in 2021/22.

He is also a member of the Christian/Muslim forum and represents the Archbishop of Canterbury for Christian/Muslim relations. More locally he engages in the civic space – God enables him to help Bradford feel comfortable with difference around religion. Currently, he is engaging on how Muslim soldiers should be honoured on Remembrance Day.

He is involved with the Stronger Communities Partnership (Government Integration Strategy) on which he is able to bring expertise from experiences in Bradford. He is a trustee of 'Linking Network' which brings children of different faiths at primary schools together.

On his role in the Episcopal area, he asked us what is God calling us to do here? The decline in the receipt of Parish Share means less clergy and hard choices about where they should be deployed at the same time as trying to grow churches. He said that there is good news: 50% of churches in the area are growing.

He stressed the need for us to keep the vision and our morale – keep our eyes up to God. Think about how to do things differently – we can't do the same but with less clergy. The C of E has given strategic development funding to Bradford to plant a new church in the city centre - Fountains Church – with a remit to plant another church in a few years time. The culture is different and it is easier to talk about giving and what lay people do. New initiatives, however, are exciting and difficult. How are we being the Body of Christ? Deanery needs to be the engine where we hold each other to account about what we are doing and can we do it better together? What is God calling us to do?

After questions, the Synod prayed for the issues raised.

Marilyn

Climate Action Menston

Climate Action Menston will be holding its first AGM on Tuesday 5 May at 7.30PM at Kirklands following an illustrated talk by Pam Warhurst CBE who set up 'Incredible Edible Todmorden'. She is an inspiring speaker and we hope to welcome a good crowd to hear her – here is a bit more info:-

The Last Ten Years: Growing the New Normal

Through a belief in the power of small actions, we can all build a newer world the Incredible Edible Way. Pam will describe how a volunteer initiative in Todmorden, West Yorkshire, transformed every corner of the town, including the towpath, the school, outside the doctors' surgery, even the graveyard, into edible spaces where food was grown. She will also show how local businesses were encouraged to grow by initiatives such as the egg map, and how everyone, including children and young people learnt new skills, self belief and a renewed sense of community. The model has inspired 150 other towns in the UK, and has spread worldwide. It features in a TED talk at www.ted.com/talks/pam_warhurst_how_we_can_eat_our_landscapes

In the meantime, *Climate Action Menston* continue with:-*Tree planting* – 400 planted so far, locally and farther afield. *Hole in the Wall* – the path to link from High Royds to the park. Costings now being obtained by the Parish Council.

Views on Main Street - 70 comment so far on how Main Street feels for all users and the start of conversations about possible improvements. Supporting 'no idling' outside the primary school.

Solar panels for Kirklands – detailed work now being done about their feasibility.

Menston businesses eco scheme - 10 pledges from local businesses to look at improving their sustainability.

Hedgehog highways – can you make your garden hedgehog friendly? *Supporting World Earth Day and Wellbeing event* on Kirklands on 25 April.

Drawing up a constitution to be adopted at the AGM. Do come along on 5 May at 7.30pm at Kirklands.

In the light of coronavirus and the current restrictions please check dates with Marilyn or Roger 874220. to avoid unnecessary journeys. Also see: http://climateactionmenston.org.uk/

ECO CHURCH

Some of you will recall that last May we received our Eco Church bronze award acknowledging that St John's is taking its responsibility for stewardship of our world seriously.

We would like to thank everyone who plays their part in this – those who purchase Fairtrade tea and coffee, cleaning products, undertake recycling, lead worship, organise the energy contracts etc.

Time moves on as does the seriousness of the situation with many governments/council etc declaring climate emergencies. In February 2020, the Church of England General Synod backed a target to reach net zero carbon by 2030 ie earlier than the recommended 2045 and the government target of 2050.

What this means in practice is still being worked out — what does that mean for the Church of England? Is it just the church, the hall, the vicarage? What about travel to church; food served at church? How does it fit with the slow process of getting permission for solar panels within the church administration?

In the meantime, as a church congregation, we would ask you to continue to reduce (what you use), re-use (what you can), recycle (as much as possible).

The Eco church scheme asks us to consider our worship, church buildings, land, community/global and our own lifestyles. Under the latter, we are asked to undertake a personal carbon footprint audit. https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/questionnaire is a fairly straightforward one. Also, see Climate Stewards for the Duplo version https://www.climatestewards.org/resources/duplo-footprint/. How about giving it a go?

Roger and I are currently taking part in *Carbon Conversations* which is a course that is designed to be run in local communities to help bring about the changes that we need to make – so watch this space! In the meantime, please reduce, re-use, recycle!

The Outreach Team

ROOF APPEAL ~ What's happening!

Our target ~ £102,000



Income to 21/3/2020

Congregational giving £20,004 (£24,279 with Gift Aid)

Quiz & Supper Night £736.86

Donations (Cancelled Bridge Drive) £75

TOTAL £25,090.86

Fundraising Events for your diaries

Coffee Mornings Saturday 18 July @ 2 Park Way

Last Sunday Craft Stalls Cancelled until further notice

Nostalgia Night Saturday 4 July, Kirklands

Music by local band 'Time Warp'. Tickets £12 includes a pie & pea supper - Judith (879290), Sue (875393) or Parish Office

(872433). Raffle and bar.

Bridge Drive Wednesday 21 October

Candlelit Supper Friday 11 December

Your ideas welcomed for fundraising events. **PLEASE** contact Kathy Roberts with your ideas. She collates dates etc to avoid clashes.

A letter from Steve re coronavirus

With the arrival of coronavirus to the UK, the next few months feel more uncertain than we are used to. We worry about what the virus will bring, we worry about the stigma of unwittingly passing it to others, and we worry about the decisions we will make to keep ourselves and others safe.

We have spent the last few months at St John's looking in detail at the Lord's Prayer and learning more about how to pray. One of the key themes was the coming of God's Kingdom and the difference it makes to us as Christians.

When we prayed 'Give us our daily bread' and Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us' we saw how these prayers are more than simple requests. They are statements of hope and longing for God's Kingdom—a Kingdom free from hunger, scarcity and fear and free fro guilt and shame.

The coronavirus is scary. It may gove us pause to reflect on how we trust God for all our needs, as part of his Kingdom. We stand on the edge of an unknown that may not end well, and we must consider what difference our faith makes. We have seen vitriol and abuse thrown around on social media, and in over-hearing conversations in the village and we can see the obvious panic in the sales if hand gel. All this is driven by fear, which makes us act selfishly, angrily and impulsively.

As our community fractures into those who may infect us, those who isolate or don't, those who travel or don't, and those who desperately protect themselves and their own at all costs, we, as the living sign of the coming of the Kingdom of God, are different. We face this differently, believing, as we pray, that God will give us what we need. We face it differently, taking our lead from Jesus in loving our neighbour as ourselves. We face it differently, knowing that Jesus said he would build his church and all the powers of evil, death and fear will not be able to stand against it.

This means, simply, that we are not a people driven by fear, but by its opposite - faith. Whether we live or die, we are safe as citizens of God's Kingdom. We pray as people who belong to a different world, which cannot be snatched away, by this virus or by anything else.

Coronavirus is perhaps the biggest test many of us will have faced of where we truly belong - the kingdom of the world - fearful of infection and its consequences; or God's Kingdom - where we live to serve our neighbour, love and forgive others, and trust God for all we need. In God's Kingdom, even if the worst happens, we will still pray the same:

Your Kingdom Come, Your will be done, Give us today our daily bread.'

Even as the world faces the oncoming storm and panics, the people of God face the darkness and stand firm - resolutely trusting, permanently loving and purposefully praying. It is by faith, not fear, that we live. We do not live as the world lives. We are not driven away from our neighbours, but we are drawn by love towards them.

Let's pray for each other and for Menston at this difficult time. Let's take all sensible precautions and follow the advice we are given; but let's not let fear define us. Instead, let's resolve to live our true citizenship, not acting on fear, but on faith in the God who keeps us now and through eternity.

Steve



CATHEDRALS QUIZ

The answers to the following clues are all names of English cathedrals or abbeys.

- 1. A Scottish church next to a market trader.
- 2. Found is spa towns.
- 3. In the present it is a way to cross the river.
- 4. It used to stand on an island.
- 5. It is used to store clothes and has a stammer.
- 6. Date by which food should be eaten.
- 7. " Go ----- young man " to the church.
- 8. We all do this, and cricketers also do this.
- 9. Turn these on for effect.
- 10. It is used to go from A to B with thick stockings.

Heather

Thank you to Heather for another interesting quiz! Answers can be found - upside down as usual - on page 21.

Jack Smith

We recently heard the news of Jack Smith's death. He was a chorister at St John's from 1954 when he moved to Endor Crescent with his bride, until he had to retire due to ill-health in late 2017.

Jack was a dedicated and loyal member of the choir and rarely missed a service or practice. There was a special service to mark Jack's sixty years in June 2014 when he was presented with an RSCM medal and afterwards we had a celebration in the Parish Room, which some of you may remember.... The following 'Ode' was written to mark the occasion. To my surprise it more or less fitted to Chant 85, which we used for the Nunc Dimittis at Evensongso the choir gave it's World Premiere as a 'special treat' for Jack!!

Our Jack

Our Jack,
Has sat at the back
Of the choir stalls for millions of Sundays.
And for many a year
He walked up here
For choir practices - on Fridays as well as Mondays.

When sat in his place,
Our Jack sings Bass
And he kicks us off in the Gloria.
He likes anthems and psalms,
But cricket also has charms
And on trains, Our Jack's been a bit of an explorer.

So let's give three cheers
For Our Jack's sixty years
As a chorister since nineteen - fifty- four.
Our Jack, please don't retire
From our little choir,
'Cos we need you for a few years more!!

We have missed Jack since he retired and give thanks for his many years of dedication to the choir and church music at St John's. Our love and sympathy go to Andrew and the rest of Jack's family.

Elizabeth

PCC Notes

A large map of the world covered the floor of the chancel, which was the focus for our opening prayers at our February meeting. As each of us lit a candle and placed it on the map in an area for specific thought and prayer, it was a poignant reminder that immense areas need our prayers, help and support.

FINANCE

The vicar has received a letter from the Diocese thanking us for the payment of our share for this year and for some of the arrears from previous years. The finances continue to be on a sound footing.

FABRIC

The biggest item is raising funds for the renewal of the roof. It was agreed that the fundraising strategy and its implementation should be conducted on a totally transparent basis so that everyone will understand the efforts being made and the successes and inevitable setbacks that will be encountered. A number of initiatives to raise money for the fund have been made by members of the congregation eg a craft stall selling hand crafted goods, will be held on the last Sunday of each month. We strongly encourage anyone with other ideas to bring them forward.

INTERCESSIONS

We agreed that the intercessions

will '... pray for all who grieve for...'. Those who have died in the previous five years will be named individually. Those who have died more than five years ago will be referred to as '... those named in the Parish Notes'. This will be reviewed in 12 months time.

OUTREACH/EVANGELISM

The PCC explored the barriers or difficulties we experience in reaching out to non-churchgoers. This is a complex subject, where the barriers may vary according to the stage a person may have reached in life's journey. Younger people may find it easier to extend an invitation to a service especially when related to their children's involvement in Zest. Older people may have different barriers. They may find difficulty in extending an invitation to their peer group, because of diffidence in raising a traditionally sensitive subject in a social context. It may be that some elements of the services are not sufficiently 'friendly' to people unversed in the liturgy.

Both **churchwardens** are retiring at the Annual Meeting and Steve reiterated the very strong need to identify and elect new wardens. The most important element of their duty is to pray in support of the church. Many of the other duties can be delegated.



MU meetings are suspended until further notice. We hope that everyone stays well and safe.

THE MOTHERS' UNION - YORK PROVINCE

Menston St John's MU is in the Bradford area of Leeds Diocese, which comes within the much larger area of York Province. Here are two stories of interest which have been reported recently.

A new branch was opened in 2018 when two teenagers requested to join the Mothers' Union. They call themselves 'Mini MU' and now have over 20 young members in attendance with adult members supporting.

In another area, a family of eight refugees were provided with joint sponsorship from Mothers' Union and the Home Office. A house, equipment, school places and uniform were all supplied and medical care was organised. Members also helped to arrange ESOL classes (English for speakers of other languages) and for the family to gain access to Government benefits.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

We give thanks for the ongoing work of the Mothers' Union and pray that the younger generation may be inspired to join the organisation, to help with supporting families in need in the years ahead.

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS

The new magazine advertising year begins this month's edition. We are delighted that so many of our advertisers are happy to continue and thank them most sincerely for their continued support for St John's. We have some space available. If you know of anyone who may be interested in placing an advert in the magazine please ask them to contact the Parish Office.

If you use the services of any of our advertisers please let them know where you saw their advert. It all helps to make them feel their support for St John's is worthwhile.

Advertising income for the coming year has raised £969 to date. This is a valuable contribution to magazine income and, together with our 'in-house' collating teams and magazine sales, helps the magazine to run at a profit, contributing £2,425 to church funds in 2019.

One negative, however, is that sales are gradually falling, year by year. Can you help? Persuade a neighbour or friend to take the magazine? Free delivery within Menston. Contact Charmian Thomas if you can.

Jan Alexander, Editor

GREEN TIPS for this month

There are so many things we can do to live lives that are just and fair and that respect this beautiful world God has made. This month's tips:



- Spend less time in the shower. Spending one minute
 less in the shower each day will save up to £7 off your energy bills
 each year, per person. Heating water uses a lot of energy.
 www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/energysaving-quick-wins
- Turn off the tap while cleaning your teeth. The clean water that flows out of your tap needs energy in many stages of processing and transport before it gets to the tap. Don't waste it!

Remember - reduce, re-use, recycle.

Outreach Group

NOTICE BOARD

SUPPER & QUIZ NIGHT

Many thanks to all who supported the Supper and Quiz Night which raised £736.86 for the roof appeal.

Our thanks to the Social Committee for all their hard work in organising another very successful and enjoyable event.

THANK YOU

As someone who regularly walks to church via the slope as opposed to the steps, I want to say a huge thank you to Kathy and the garden team for the sheer beauty of the church garden and all their work. The spring flowers coming out really lift the spirits and I just wanted to say 'thanks'. *Andrew*

Something to make us smile!

To go to the grocery store, they said a mask and gloves were enough ... they lied ... everybody else had clothes on!

Don't break' em

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. 'Is there anything breakable in here?' asked the postal clerk.

The lady paused for a moment. 'Only the Ten Commandments,' she said politely.

Higher power

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, 'We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?'

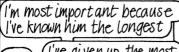
One child blurted out, 'Aces!'

Answers. 1. Kirkstall; 2. Wells; 3. Hereford; 4. Ely; 5. Chester; 6. Selby; 7. Westminster; 8. Wakefield; 9. Fountains; 10 Carlisle.

It can be read in the Bible in Luke 22:24, John 13:3-17

A short story from the Bible

Jesus and his disciples were celebrating the Passover with the special meal. The disciples were bickering again.



(I've given up the most to follow him! I'm the oldest!

There was a reason whu no-one wanted to be the least important-the roads were mud and everyone's feet got very dirty.



The disciples didn't have a servant, and none of them wanted to do the feet washing...





Peter couldn't helieve what he was seeing!



Are you really going to wash my feet?

You will understand later why I am doing this.

I can't ever let you serve me like this! If you don't let me, you will no longer be my disciple,

Then wash all of me

If you've had a bath, then you only need your feet washing!



Once Jesus had washed all their feet, he put his robe back on and sat down



Do you understand whyl, your teacher, did this? I am setting you the example of how you are to serve each other. Do it, and God will bless you.

FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM We welcome into the Lord's family:

15 March Freya Bexson

FUNERAL SERVICES We commend into the hands of Almighty God:

18 February Ken Milnes
5 March Stuart Dyson
6 March Barbara Nelson
16 March John Marston
25 March Jack Smith

Marjorie Gill



ALTAR FLOWERS

12 April EASTER flowers

As there will be no services at St John's for the present time there is no obligation to fulfil your slot on the altar flower rota. However, should wish to do so, the church will be open during each day and will of course still be used by individuals for private prayer. I'm sure flowers would still be appreciated. Donations towards Easter lilies will not be required this year. If you have already donated and would like a refund please contact the Treasurer. Thank you. Jan Alexander

Light Up St John's – Floodlight Sponsorship

1 April In loving memory of Marjorie Waring (our mum)

16 April Remembering my beloved husband

22 April Remembering with love, today and always

A very special way to mark an anniversary or simply to give thanks. Forms are available at the back of church and should be handed into the Parish Office. The cost is £5 per evening which helps to cover the costs of floodlighting the church from dusk until 10.30pm.

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property agent

If you are thinking of moving, please call us on **01943 660 494** to arrange a valuation of your property.

It may just be that you want a bit of advice about downsizing or works to complete before selling your property, or are unsure weather to move at all - just ask!

www.ribstonpippin.co.uk contact@ribstonpippin.co.uk

Our aim is to be as helpful as possible, but don't just take our word for it:

"Thank you for all your help over the past 18 months! It was worth the wait to find the right house for us!"

IO AND LEE

"Thanks so much to all at Ribston Pippin for the sale of our property. It was a pleasure to deal with such nice people. All the best for the future." **PAT AND JOHN**

"Thank you for being so easy to deal with and for making our house purchase very straightforward. Thank you also for your words of wisdom during times of stress"

JESSICA R

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Please visit our website for more information

Contact Kathryn Lindsay BSc(Hons)

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