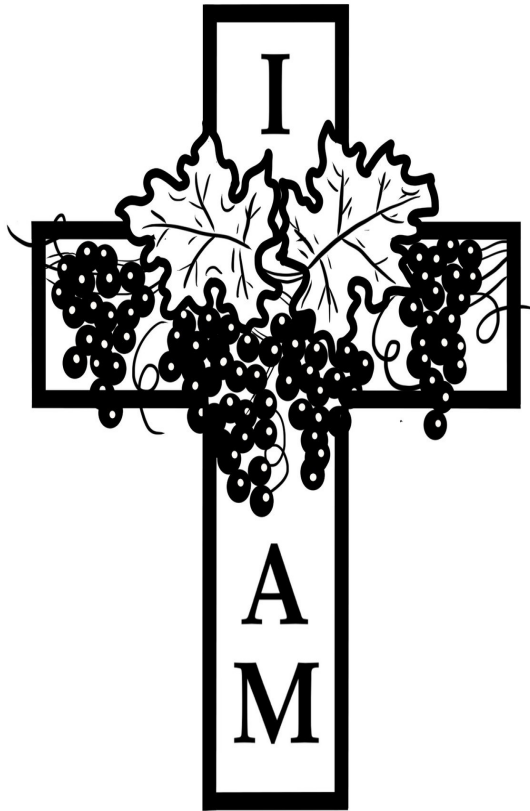


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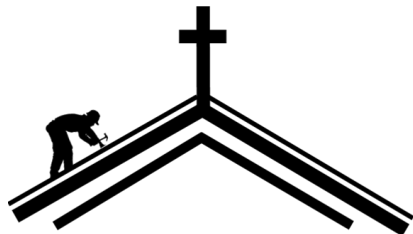
MENSTON
PARISH CHURCH
St John the Divine

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60p

ROOF APPEAL ~ What's happening!



Our target ~ £102,000

Income to 24/5/2021

The appeal has currently raised from:

Trusts & Foundations	£1,000
Congregational giving	£45,382.04
Fundraising activities	£6,724.51
Menston community	£6,129.99
Gift Aid claimed	£10,503.25
TOTAL	£69,739.80 (with Gift Aid)

We are still short of our fundraising target 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. 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 already hold your details.

FUNDRAISING

Some fundraising events are currently being planned for later in the year - see pages 9, 10 and 11 and we hope that these will go ahead. Any changes to these events will be notified in good time via the Parish Notes, website and magazine.



From the Editor



What do you think will happen after Covid?

You can take your choice: a recent survey has found that a third of us think that society may *never* go back to the old ways, a third of us think we will go back to *exactly* as we were before, and a third of us think that we will be *keener than ever* to stay together.

The Together Coalition, chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury, has been working for the past year on a piece of research to track just what has happened to communities during lockdown.

The new research has found that ‘people feel a stronger sense of connection to their neighbours and community. ...We found a clear public appetite for a society in which we are more connected to each other, and the community spirit of 2020 is kept alive.’

It also found that around 12.4 million people have volunteered during the pandemic, 4.6 million of them for the first time. And 75 per cent of those volunteers would be happy to do so again.

This month

P6 A View from the Pews

P7 Prayer Points

P8 Roof Appeal news!

P9 Open Gardens

P10 150th Anniversary

P12 Worship details

P15 Mothers' Union

P18 Bible Bite

Copy for the double JULY / AUGUST magazine is due by **Sunday 13 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 said last month in my letter that the church council are working on some planning and reflection under the headings of 'Worship,' 'Mission' and 'Discipleship,' and last month I wrote about the worship of God being a while life activity, or posture, rather than just a Sunday thing.

This month, PCC will be looking at another heading: *Discipleship*. For those for whom this is a 'churchy' word, it is basically short-hand for encouraging one another's faith, building each another up in faith, praying with and for one another, learning from each other and teaching each other, challenging each other and setting examples for each other. Traditionally, disciples were those who sought to learn from their rabbi and do everything as he did and learn from his teaching. It's an individual and corporate action whereby we are disciples of Jesus, just like the Twelve were when Jesus was alive.

In Acts chapter 2 we read:

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Here we have just one particular snapshot from one particular time of what that looked like. But just like with worship, it is clear that being a disciple isn't just a Sunday thing. It seems

instead to be a really life-changing and challenging thing. The church *devoted* themselves to the apostles teaching (i.e. teaching about the scriptures and the stories about Jesus) and to fellowship, which included communion and prayers. They spent loads of time in the temple together, but also praised God at home. This snapshot feels quite a long way removed from some of our Christian faith today.

That's what the church council will be discussing. How can we help each other to understand the Bible and apply it to today; to fall in love with the stories of Jesus and of God's great acts in history? How can we help each other to pray, expecting to be heard? How can we encourage each other and share stories of what God does day by day in each of our lives? How can we learn our faith together, challenge each other, and be examples of faith to each other?

All this is important - not so that we support a flawed institution, or so we produce a more moral society - it is important because as God's people, surely we would want to know God better, be more in tune with the God we worship, take our place within the family of God, and seek to build up our brothers and sisters in Jesus in their faith? Discipleship means that collectively and individually we are a people who follow Jesus, emulating him and helping others to grow in faith too.

How do you feel about this devotion to Jesus, his teaching, and the life of his church? What would help you in your faith? What would help you to understand the Bible as you read it at home? What would help you pray? How can your following of Jesus become a natural thing that takes place every day, each day bringing you closer to God? I'd love to hear your thoughts, but also I'd love to know you were thinking and praying about it.

Steve

A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

In the next few weeks it is possible that the way we have lived for more than a year will change. There are likely to be more people on the road in the morning, more people in restaurants, theatres and cinemas will reopen, many people will be planning summer holidays abroad. All this is welcome as we regain a semblance of the life we have missed since early in 2020.

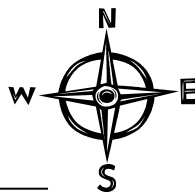
However, I think it is important we try to keep hold of some of the new ways of living that we have found during lockdown. A friend of mine has recently moved into an apartment in Leeds. His morning run is illustrated on Twitter with photos of the beautiful Victorian architecture of the city centre. It reminds us that one thing we can do, whatever the future may hold, is take time to look at the world around us. For many that may well involve a walk in the country or a leisurely stroll around a beautiful garden. It is worth remembering the built environment and the treasures that it holds as well.

As a thought exercise I would like you to think of your favourite building. The rule is that it must be a building you have visited or lived in that has had an impact on you. Rather than just getting the image in your head, take a few extra moments to recover the feelings and emotions. Take a walk through the building in your mind. Note the smells, sounds, shapes and colours you remember.

There is a purpose to this. We can all get so caught up in the general hubbub of life that we do not take the time to appreciate the world around us and the effect it has on us. Slowing down, looking up, breathing are simple ways of making sure the pace of life does not take us too quickly through the day. Spending a moment recalling the sights, sounds and smells of a place that has brought us comfort, joy, peace or security can encourage us to be grateful not only for the world around us but for our place in it.

We are, by design, social beings. The hardships for us all in the past year or so have been well documented. The government use the slogan 'build back better' and I think it is a good one. It encourages us all to look around, see what is good and use that as our guide as we step into the future.

Prayer Points



June – almost the turning of the year. Nature in full flower and an appreciation of all it offers. Also the anticipation of family holidays and enjoyment

SAINTS DAYS: 11 JUNE - St Barnabas
29 JUNE - St Peter and St Paul

Thank you, God, for the saints who through their lives and teaching left their mark on this earth for us to follow. May we learn to live wisely from their examples of faith, dedication, worship and love. Amen

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY - 5 JUNE

Initiated by the United Nations in 1970 to remind us that Humans are not alone on this planet. A huge biological ecosystem exists and we survive because of that.

Enjoy the earth gently
Enjoy the earth gently
For if the earth is spoiled
It cannot be repaired
Enjoy the earth gently

Yoruba poem: Bread of Tomorrow

FATHER'S DAY - 20 JUNE

This celebration was introduced in the USA in 1910 and declared a National holiday in 1972 before this custom spread worldwide.

Dear God, bless all fathers who have accepted the responsibility of being a parent. Guide them to be good role models, looking to your example to parent with patience, love and understanding. Amen

With thanks to Kathy Roberts for this month's Prayer Points



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Andrew Lindsay BSc(Hons)

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Our Parish Church is celebrating its 150th Anniversary this year.

We have so much to celebrate and give thanks for, and so this year, as we gradually emerge from our enforced hibernation, we want to say thank you for 150 years of faithful witness and service in a number of ways.

Some events are well under way in the planning and preparation. Other events still need your help to make them become real.

So many of our usual activities will have a grateful nod to the thanks for 150 years, and prayers for the future. We seriously need to address the roof appeal, and make sure that a new roof is the best gift we can give this year.

If you have any ideas, questions, inspirations or offers of help please contact Andrew who will give as much support as he can.

Thank you - we can only do it with **YOU!**



**Friday 17 – Sunday 19 September
Flower Festival
'Divine Reflections'**

**Sunday 19 September
Celebration Service led by the
Lord Bishop of Leeds,
the Rt Revd Nick Baines.**

150 Great Recipes

**Share your favourite
dish with us all. Recipes
still needed! Contact
Sue Lee 875393**



Harvest of Gifts and Talents
A celebration of all the skills we
have been given as well as our
usual Harvest Festival.

Nostalgia Night
featuring local band
Time Warp.
Saturday 30 October at
Kirklands.



Worship this month

6 June The First Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Acts 5: 1-16; Mark 3: 20-end

9.30am Zest

11.00am Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist

13 June The Second Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Acts 6: 1-15; Mark 4: 26-34

9.30am Zest

11.00am Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist

20 June The Third Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Acts 8: 26-40; Mark 4: 35-51

9.30am Zest

11.00am Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist

27 June The Fourth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Acts 9: 1-19; Mark 5: 21-end

9.30am Zest

11.00am Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist

4 July The Fifth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Acts tba; Mark tba

9.30am Zest

11.00am Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist

MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

9.30am Wednesdays: 2 / 9 / 16 / 23 / 30 June

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Please continue to maintain physical distancing measures when in the church building. During the 11am service, any overflow will be directed to the Parish Room where the speaker system will be used to enable people there to take part.

Normal hygiene measures (sanitiser on entry and exit, etc) are still in place, and a register will be kept of those who attend for the purposes of contact tracing.

GIFT AID

If anyone requires a statement showing their gift aided donations to St Johns for the tax year 2020/21 please let me know. Under normal circumstances I would leave statements for all regular givers in envelopes at the back of church, but, under current restrictions, I will deliver a statement if you request one. Colin Alexander 01943 878355 or colinalexander266@btinternet.com

FROM THE REGISTERS

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

4 May Richard Brian Agar R.I.P

GREEN TIPS for this month

This month's tips look at ideas for the garden.

- ~ Set aside an area of your garden for contemplation and reflection. See the [Quiet Garden Trust](#) and [Reflection Gardens](#) for inspiring ideas on using our gardens to create space for God.
- ~ Use washing-up water on your plants, before using the water in your water butts.



Remember - small actions on our part DO make changes.

Outreach Group with thanks to the EcoChurch website

SAINT of the MONTH ~ Barnabas 11 June

Barnabas was Paul's first missionary companion and lived in Cyprus.

Born Joseph, a wealthy Jewish Cypriot and a Levite, he is first mentioned in Acts 4:36, when the Early Church was sharing a communal lifestyle. Joseph sold a field and gave the money to the apostles. His support so touched them that they gave him the nickname of Barnabas, 'Son of Encouragement'.

Barnabas has two great claims to fame. Firstly, it was Barnabas who made the journey to go and fetch the converted Paul out of Tarsus, and persuade him to go with him to Antioch, where there were many new believers with no one to help them. For a year the two men ministered there, establishing a church. It was here that the believers were first called Christians.

It was also in Antioch (Acts 13) that the Holy Spirit led the church to 'set aside' Barnabas and Paul, and to send them out on the church's first ever 'missionary journey'. The Bible tells us that they went to Cyprus, and then travelled throughout the island. It was at Lystra that the locals mistook Barnabas for Zeus and Paul for Hermes, much to their dismay.

Much later, back in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul decided to part company. While Paul travelled on to Syria, Barnabas did what he could do best: return to Cyprus and continue to evangelise it. So, when restrictions ease and travel is allowed once again, should you go to Cyprus and visit churches, remember that Christianity on that beautiful island goes right back to Acts 13, when Barnabas and Paul first arrived.

In England there are 13 ancient church dedications and not a few modern ones. Barnabas the generous, the encourager, the apostle who loved his own people – no wonder he should be remembered with love.

Parish Pump News Service



Persistence in Prayer

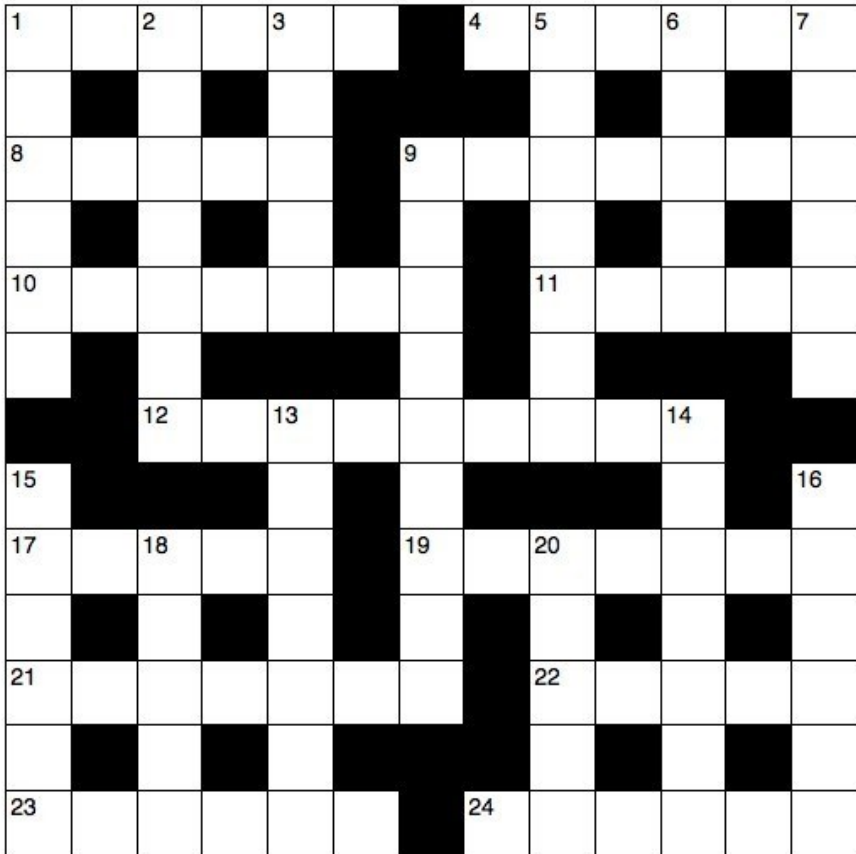
As a young child I asked my mother what prayer was. Her answer stayed with me, *'Prayer is all of your life.'* While it took quite a bit of time to work that one out, my answer now is, when asked, *'Prayer is our conversation with God.'* A two-way thing and if I want to maintain my relationship with God, I need to maintain that conversation.

Mothers' Union members from Papua New Guinea are taught from an early age that daily prayer is a part of their lives. In most instances morning prayer from their Prayer Book is a daily ritual. Also at the end of every Eucharist no one moves from church until the candles are extinguished and it is a time of silent prayer.

Another help to my prayer life was a sermon, still when I was quite young, that included the word ACTS, as a pattern for prayer. Adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplications - that is praying for our wants and needs. I have used it ever since, I cannot go to sleep without praying with this formula, although nowadays the supplications for myself are often lost as I fall asleep!

So along with regular formal prayers and essential 'arrow' prayers, my conversations with God are regular, with moments all day to hear God, joyful, and, I hope never-ending.

*by Revd Canon Libbie Crossman,
a Mothers' Union Trustee*



Across

1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)

4 Place of learning (6)

8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)

9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)

10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)

11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)

- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

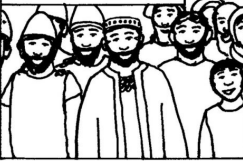
It can be read in the Bible in
2 Sam 6: 1-10, 2 Chron 13, 15:1-28

Copies of God's laws for the Jews were kept in a special holy chest - the Ark. It had been stored at Keriath Jearim for 20 years...

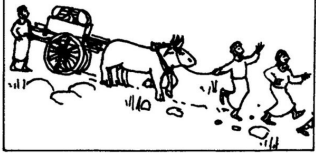
When King David made Jerusalem his capital, he decided to bring the Ark there.



David brought his soldiers and a huge crowd came too



They put the Ark on a new cart and set off down the hill.



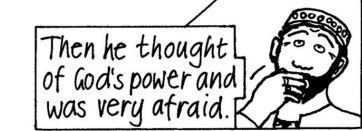
The oxen stumbled, and Uzzah thought the Ark might fall off the cart.



He forgot the Ark was holy and held on to it.



David was very angry with God that Uzzah had died



Then he thought of God's power and was very afraid.

So he left the Ark stored at the house of Obed Edom.



David realised that they had not treated God's Ark with respect.



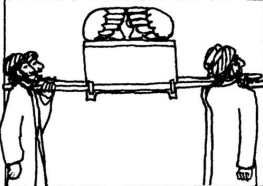
He talked to the Levites, the tribe that God had chosen to be His priests.



They organised musicians and trumpeters, and people to carry the Ark.



God's holy Ark was treated with respect.



Everyone cheered and sang as the Ark was carried into Jerusalem.



NOTICE BOARD

Altar Flowers

Thank you to those who have signed the new flower rota. Plenty of dates are still free. It's a lovely way to remember a special anniversary or a loved one. Have a look next time you are passing through the church porch.

13 June Ann Hill

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Grandpa's Face

A little girl was sitting next to her grandfather as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up and touch his wrinkled cheek. She would touch her own face after she touched his.

After a while of thinking she asked, 'Grandpa, did God make you?'

He looked at her and said, 'Yes, sweetheart, God made me a long time ago.'

She paused for a few seconds, then asked, 'Grandpa, did God make me too?'

He replied, 'Yes indeed, he made you just a little while ago.'

Feeling their respective faces again, she whispered to him, 'God's getting better at it, isn't he?'

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