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2021

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MENSTON  
PARISH CHURCH  
St John the Divine



*Peace on Earth*

# ROOF APPEAL ~ What's happening!

Our target ~ £102,000

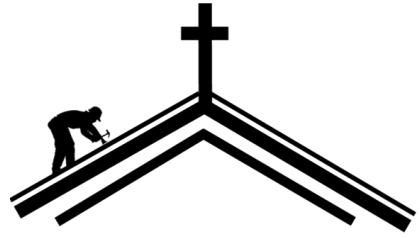
## Income to 24/11/2020

*Received so far*

£36,207

**TOTAL**

**£41,817 with Gift Aid**



We are still short of our fundraising target so it is not too late to donate either by

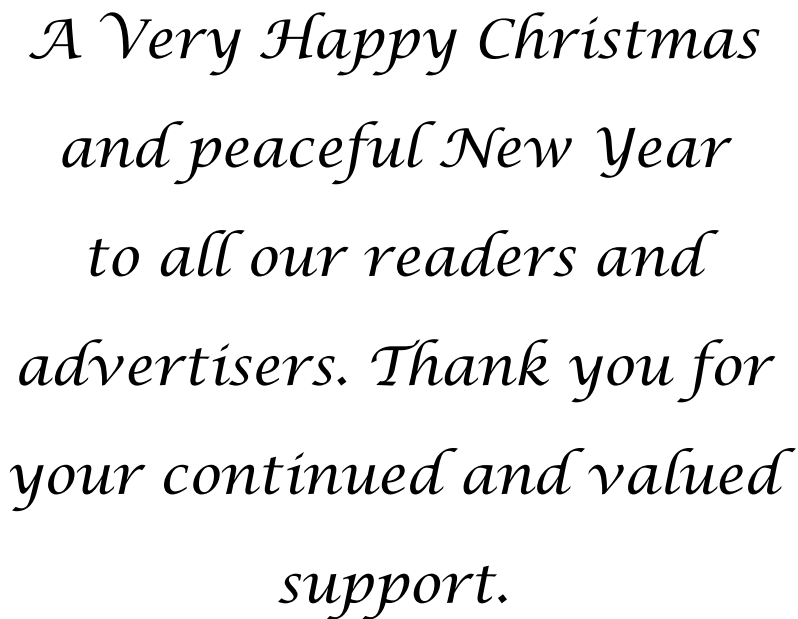
- BACS to: Menston PCC 40-22-28 A/C 40572640  
*Reference* (most imp) : Roof + surname
- or cheque payable to Menston PCC. Send to the Treasurer, Hillcrest, Kelcliffe Lane, Guiseley, Leeds LS20 9DE or post through the Parish Office letterbox. If you are a taxpayer please consider Gift Aid. A gift aid declaration form is available from the Treasurer if he does not already hold your details.

## *A simple FUNDRAISING idea!*

We can all raise money without endangering our safety whether we have already given to the appeal or not. Please take a jam jar with label from the back of church, or create your own at home, and Pop a Pound (or two!) in it each week for six months ie until next April/May.



If fifty people saved a pound a week for 26 weeks then we would have raised £1,300. However, if they were to save two pounds a week it would be double that, and there is also the possibility of gift aiding the amount saved. Simple! So please take part and help us to meet our target. *Jane Pratt*



*A Very Happy Christmas  
and peaceful New Year  
to all our readers and  
advertisers. Thank you for  
your continued and valued  
support.*



**This month**

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### Dear Friends

*'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...'*

Except it isn't.

We are about to experience a Christmas like we've never had before. Whichever tier we find ourselves within by the time Christmas comes, this year's celebrations will feel rather alien.

As I've been planning for Christmas and reflecting on the situation, I've found myself noticing the alienation in the Christmas story itself. It is not a normal occurrence. The terms 'uncharted territory' and 'unprecedented times' could just as easily be applied to the story of Jesus' birth as they have been applied so often to the Covid-19 pandemic.

There's the unique conception, the prophetic fulfilment, and the personal stories of Mary and Joseph – all of which are completely unprecedented even if they have become so familiar to us that we hardly notice. But if we look closer, we see Jesus' parents alienated from family and friends through travel for the census and possibly through cultural taboos about being pregnant without being married. We find that the baby Jesus drawing his first breath far from the comforts of home and amongst strangers from the fields or far away. Next, the story skips to a dramatic escape in the night as Jesus and his parents flee Herod's annihilation of infants and become further alienated in Egypt.

Jesus' early life was spent in uncharted circumstances; affected by the currents of national and global politics, the demands of the political class upon those who had to obey, the fight for survival in an uncertain world and the strangeness of a new environment in a foreign place. For Jesus and his parents, this perfect storm meant that everything had changed. All

familiarity was gone. They were stripped of security and left at the mercy of God.

Perhaps that first Christmas actually has more in common with Christmas 2020 than we realise?

As we find ourselves unable to celebrate as normal, unable to meet with friends and family freely, and unable to enjoy the traditions of Christmas past; perhaps this year is the one where we will come into direct contact afresh with the fragility and daring of the plan by which God sent his only son into the world. Perhaps the anxiety, loneliness and sense of our own mortality that we feel this year, unlike other Christmases, could be the key that links our lives with the original Christmas story again in a meaningful way. Perhaps seeing how God moved throughout the nativity story will enable us to see again how God moves in each of our lives, even in the midst of a pandemic.

I pray we all have a good Christmas, connecting again with this unprecedented and unique occurrence through which God's Messiah comes to us, lives with us, and eventually dies for us.

Amen.

*Steve*



*Peace is not the absence of trouble ~  
peace is the presence of God.*

## A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

The good people at Collins' English Dictionary have announced their 'word of the year.' You will be unsurprised to learn that the word is, 'lockdown'. This set me wondering what words could best sum up this extraordinary year. Of course, the word that each of us would use depends very much on what has befallen us and how, as individuals we have responded.

For some, the year can best be described as 'devastating'. The loss of a loved one, an income, a hoped-for event can really make someone question themselves and their own place in the world.

For others, the year has been cloaked in 'heroism'. The resilience and determination of those key workers in schools, supermarkets, care homes and of course the NHS, have meant that the struggles they have faced have been eased by support from their community.

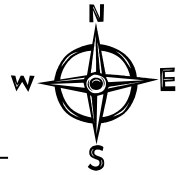
Some people may describe the year as 'challenging.' Those in the creative arts and in catering have had to find new and innovative ways to keep their industries afloat. It has also been a challenging year for those in the government, local and national, who have had to deal with issues they could not have foreseen. Whether they have been effective is a matter of personal judgement but they are included in our weekly prayers as their success affects us all.

There will be those among us who could describe the year as 'joyful.' The world has not stopped turning – families have welcomed new members and weddings have taken place affirming relationships to each other and the world. Significant life events have taken place – qualifications achieved, new jobs begun, new houses acquired and turned into homes.

For me, when I look back on 2020, I find I come back to the word 'hopeful'. Nobody ever said life was going to be easy. Challenges are faced every day whether in a pandemic or some other crisis. What this year has shown me is that, when faced with the challenges of life, most people arc towards goodness. Those who have set up foodbanks, volunteered to help out, gone shopping for the elderly or vulnerable have given me hope that the world is a fundamentally kind place. That the summer showed people they can live in a way that is less harmful to the planet and still experience a full and rich life gives me hope that the next year will be a year of opportunity, challenge and delight.

I hope you all have a peaceful and wonderful Christmas and new year. Here's to the adventure that will be 2021!

# Prayer Points



What more is Advent than a chocolate countdown to Christmas? The Church turns to the Old Testament prophets who remind us that as human-beings we live with an enormous hunger to be spoken to, to be touched, to be seen for who we really are, to face that truth, and to be loved.

'But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he *is* like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap.' *Malachi 3:2*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## Advent Calendar by Rowan Williams

He will come like last leaf's fall.  
One night when the November wind  
has flayed the trees to the bone,  
and earth  
wakes choking on the mould,  
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like dark.  
One evening when the bursting red  
December sun draws up the sheet  
and penny-masks its eye to yield  
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come like frost.  
One morning when the shrinking earth  
opens on mist, to find itself  
arrested in the net  
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come, will come,  
will come like crying in the night,  
like blood, like breaking,  
as the earth writhes to toss him free.  
He will come like child.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

As a baby is talked and touched into life, so Advent brings the opportunity to seek afresh that opening of self, to let God be God in our daily living, to be talked and touched into new and everlasting life.

Help us, Lord, to slow down,  
To take time,  
To clear our hearts and minds,  
So that we can clearly see  
When the Christ Child arrives  
And know the impact of His coming.

## A Good Read

As this is a 'Christmas Special' double edition I thought I would offer up some ideas for reading – either for yourself or as gifts for others – as it seems to have been my primary occupation of the past few months!

Back in March I *plucked 'Wolf Hall' by Hillary Mantel* off the bookshelf. I had been meaning to read it for a number of years but its size and scope daunted me. Lockdown in March gave me a good opportunity and I am very glad. It is a remarkable work that humanises figures known to us only in history books. It reminded me of the beauty of language and the power of good fiction to take the reader to places beyond their imagination.

With that in mind, I have compiled a short list of five books that I read during lockdown that left an impression on me. Explore or ignore as you wish!

My first choice is one that I had not heard of until Andrew used it in a sermon at the beginning of the year. *'The Book Of Witnesses' by David Kossoff* is a book that I enjoyed because it took the peripheral characters in the tumultuous events of The New Testament and gave them voices. Sometimes the story of Jesus is so huge that my poor little brain cannot understand it! Kossoff has

placed these events in a human context and that enables the reader more easily to relate to their impact on the human experience. The book travels up and down the emotional spectrum leaving the reader laughing, crying and thinking anew about the greatest story of man.

My next choice takes us from the greatest story every told to one of the darkest events of Victorian London. We all know the name of 'Jack The Ripper'. His story is familiar to many of us – though in the interests of public decency I will not recount it here. In the story, his victims are portrayed with an almost cavalier disregard. They are dismissed as prostitutes and thus, in some small way, are seen as complicit in their downfall. If that sounds familiar then I urge you to read *'The Five' by Hallie Rubenthold*. In this brilliant book, Rubenthold has set herself the task of telling the stories of the women murdered on those dark and violent streets. Her skills as a researcher, historian and narrator give this book a tremendous energy and vitality. The remit – to foreground the victims and give them their rightful place – is achieved with verve. The reader is left feeling anger at the way these women have been treated and hope that, now their stories have been told, they will take a more appropriate place in the narrative.



Some of history's most significant events seem almost to spring out of nowhere. We often forget the evolutionary way in which small events snowball and become those historic moments. My third choice, ***'The Parisian' by Isabella Hammad***, looks at perhaps the most significant global event of the twentieth century – the creation of the state of Israel. A straight narrative would be simple but what Hammad does is she looks at the struggles of identity through the eyes of a young Palestinian doctor living in France at the outbreak of the First World War. His struggles – both romantic and political – form the backdrop for an examination of the policies that led Palestine to its fate by the end of the Second World War. She weaves the personal and political together in a way that allows the reader to think carefully about the events of the 1940s and how their impact is still felt so deeply today.

Individual isolation and duty to a national identity – themes covered by Hammad – are implicit also in ***John Lanchester's novel 'The Wall'***, my fourth choice. A young man is doing his two years of national service patrolling a section of the wall that surrounds his country. The purpose is to prevent invasion from those 'outsiders' trying to get in and disturb the equilibrium. The themes of alienation and protection are recognisable in this

fable and serve as a stark reminder that communities that try to preserve themselves in aspic rarely flourish and in time begin to stagnate and rot.

If Lanchester's protagonist is isolated that is definitely not the case for the hero in my final selection. In ***'The Penguin Lessons' Tom Michell*** has written about his time as a teacher in Argentina. During a trip to Montevideo he sees shiny black rocks on the beach, covered in oil from a recent slick. Except these are not rocks they are the corpses of penguins. And one of them is not a corpse! With all the hubris of youth, Michell rescues the penguin and adopts him, taking him back to Argentina where he becomes a mascot of the school. The story continues with tales of companionship and belonging. It is a delightful and captivating tale full of life.

If you would rather support small, independent booksellers rather than feed the Amazon behemoth then [www.hive.co.uk](http://www.hive.co.uk) or [www.wordery.com](http://www.wordery.com) might be good places to start.

Hopefully, 2021 will see a gradual return to normality but for the *me time*, reading has been a great comfort and I hope you may enjoy some of the books that have kept me company throughout 2020.

*Dominic Hall*

## REMEMBERING JOHN FINCH

John was a much-loved member of the choir and had been a chorister at St John's for 25 years. He had a beautiful tenor voice and sang many solos: his specialities were '*Thou visitest the earth*' at Harvest, and the tenor solo in the Darke version of '*In the bleak midwinter*'. John loved the Welsh hymn tunes and especially relished the tenor / alto run of notes at the end of Hymn 214 '*Guide me O thou great Redeemer*'!

Despite some health and mobility issues in recent times, John reached the top of the vestry steps and then arrived in the stalls through absolute grit and determination each Sunday. In fact, on the last occasion he was in church in February, it was discovered later in the week that he had been walking on a broken hip at the time; that's real dedication!

Music had played a big part in John's life; he had been a boy chorister and was a long-time member of both the Fairfax Singers and the Wharfedale Mens' choirs.

Another of John's passions was sport; he had played rugby and cricket in his younger days, and golf for many years; he was an avid watcher on these sports on TV, and keen to discuss and analyse the finer points of Saturdays' games in the vestry on Sunday mornings. He went to all Otley's games and filed their match reports each week in the local Wharfedale newspaper. John was also a keen gardener; his garden was always colourful and immaculate.

We will all miss John very much and send love and sympathy to Jane, Liz and James and their families, and to Gordon and Sallie.

*Elizabeth Leopold*

### **... Thank you everybody**

The family of John Finch would like to thank you all for your words and messages of support and condolence, and especially to Steve and Margaret, our organist, for leading a service of great comfort to us, and a fitting tribute to John's life.

During the more than 35 years John and Jeanne lived in Menston, St John's was both their spiritual home and the source of great friendships.

## OUR GRATEFUL THANKS

I'm sure everyone will agree that we owe a debt of gratitude to those who have enabled us to continue worshipping in church and keeping us informed during the pandemic. As I write we are in the middle of another lockdown and therefore only able to enter St John's for private prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays, but hopefully by Christmas we will be together again!

Firstly, thank you to our clergy, Steve and Andrew, for thinking of **everything** to keep us safe during our time in church (and all who have helped them set things up for services.) Thank you for the extra work they have had to put in - preparing the services online, on the telephone and for display on the overhead screens for church worship (what a blessing they have been!) Steve and Andrew have had to be really creative and we have been very lucky as a result.

Thank you also to Margaret Harvey and Elizabeth Leopold for playing the organ, thus allowing us to have some music for our services. Even though we **can't sing** they have played us some recognisable tunes, including some hymns, which we have been able to sing in our heads!

Thank you to the flower arrangers for continuing to make St John's feel like a place of welcome and beautifying our church.

Last, but not least, thank you to all who have kept us informed through the Parish Notes (on line), by communicating by telephone and for the Parish Magazine (which has been a Godsend to many people.) Our special thanks go to Jan Alexander and Elizabeth Leopold for collating the magazine single handedly and to Charmian Thomas for seeing to their distribution and to the distributors.

*Jane Pratt*

## *THIS MONTH from Andrew*

One of the overused words of 2020 is ‘unprecedented’. We have heard it repeatedly, as each new rule, regulation or recommendation has been issued. Very few of us will emerge from this experience unscarred in some way. Working with Students and Staff at the University in Bradford, we have been talking about finding a way to shake off that ‘ennui’ that we keep experiencing. How do you stay motivated, resilient, focussed, when its hard to even remember what day of the week it is?

I have been running several workshops teaching students how to find that all important space that is ‘just for you’. An oasis of calm that you can control. We have done led meditations, breathing techniques, imagined journeys. They have been well received and a few students tell me that they are practicing these techniques regularly now.

This week I have come across a book of poems by a writer called Roger Robinson. He is a Trinidadian poet who splits his time between Trinidad and London. The book is called *A Portable Paradise*. It got me wondering about the portable paradise that we all need to foster during these unprecedented times! Here is Rogers title poem:

*‘And if I speak of Paradise,  
then I’m speaking of my grandmother  
who told me to carry it always  
on my person, concealed, so  
no one else would know but me.  
That way they can’t steal it, she’d say.  
And if life puts you under pressure,  
Trace its ridges in your pocket,  
Smell its piney scent on your handkerchief,  
Hum its anthem under your breath,*

*And if your stresses are sustained and daily,  
Get yourself to an empty room – be it hotel,  
Hostel or hovel – find a lamp  
and empty paradise onto your desk:  
your white sands, green hills and fresh fish.  
Shine the lamp on it like the fresh hope  
of morning and keep staring at it till you sleep.’*

We all need to find that little bit of paradise in the middle of the chaos, be that lockdown, Christmas, or just everyday life. Have a happy blessed and peaceful Christmas, and here is to Paradise in 2021!

Love,

*Andrew*



## **WORSHIP NOTES**

### **COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**

Please 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.) will be in place, and a register will be kept of those who attend for the purposes of contact tracing.

## **SUNDAY RESOURCES**

On Sundays, the Zest service video and a Service of the Word video will be available to view on our website.

### **St John's Dial-A-Service**

Have you tried this service yet? Call 01943 666875 for a short Service of the Word. You will hear an automated message followed by this week's recorded service. Calls are charged at your regular, local rate (ie same price it would to make a regular call).

# Worship this month

**6 Dec The Second Sunday of ADVENT**  
**Readings: Isaiah 40: 1-11; Mark 1: 1-8**

9.30am Zest  
11.00am Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist

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**13 Dec The Third Sunday of ADVENT**  
**Readings: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11; John 1: 6-8, 19-28**

9.30am Zest  
11.00am Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist

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**20 Dec The Fourth Sunday of ADVENT**  
**Readings: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16; Luke 1: 26-38**

9.30am Zest  
11.00am Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist  
4.00pm Carol Service

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**24 Dec CHRISTMAS EVE ~ Reading: John 1: 1-14**  
11.30pm

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**25 Dec CHRISTMAS DAY ~ Reading: Matthew 1: 18-end**

10.00am Christmas Morning Celebration followed  
by optional communion. Everyone welcome  
as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ



**27 Dec The First Sunday of CHRISTMAS**  
**Readings: Isaiah 61: 10—62: 3; Luke 2: 15-21**

9.30am Zest  
11.00am Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist

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## MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

9.30am *Wednesdays: Please check the Parish Notes. NB: there will be no communion on Wednesday 30 December.*

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We hope that these services will go ahead, but churches are governed by the Covid-19 restrictions. They will be on-line if it is not possible to open the church. The Parish Notes contain up to date service information. Please check the website for any alterations to services [www.stjohnmenston.org.uk](http://www.stjohnmenston.org.uk)

**3 Jan The Second Sunday of CHRISTMAS**

**Readings: TBC**

9.30am Zest

11.00am Service of the Word using liturgy from the Methodist Covenant service followed by optional Eucharist

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**10 Jan The BAPTISM of CHRIST**

**Readings: Genesis 1: 1-5; Mark 1: 4-11**

9.30am Zest

11.00am Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist

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**17 Jan The Second Sunday after EPIPHANY**

**Readings: 1 Samuel 3: 1-20; John 1: 43-end**

9.30am Zest

11.00am Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist

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**24 Jan The Third Sunday after EPIPHANY**

**Readings: Genesis 14: 17-20; John 2: 1-11**

9.30am Zest

11.00am Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist

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**31 Jan The Fourth Sunday after EPIPHANY**

**Readings: Deuteronomy 18: 15-20; Mark 1: 21-28**

9.30am Zest

11.00am Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist

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**7 Feb The Second Sunday before LENT**

**Readings: Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31; John 1: 1-14**

9.30am Zest

11.00am Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist

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## DECEMBER HUMBUG

December's wild collective madness strikes!  
We all submit like slaves to Santa's lash  
and with our hearts and minds and credit cards  
crown Santa as de facto Season King.

Remote from human suffering at the Pole,  
he speaks to those who dream of better things  
beyond injustice misery and toil  
to offer tinsel hope and brittle joy:  
'Just come to me, and I will bring relief -  
my cargo cult will save you from your grief'

I cannot soil the Incarnation's gift  
with Santa's baubles or his sugared gift.

Give me the God whose feet have touched the ground  
and walked with us as human as ourselves  
to celebrate our joys and share our pain;  
who's borne injustice, hunger and fatigue  
and who, foreswearing all escape, endured  
our human death; and Death's secured.

December's now the torment of my year;  
while Santa's bogus claims assault my ears  
the One we fete, who lived our living's ills,  
is trampled in the rush for happy pills.

*Jim McPherson*

***And a thought to share . . .***

***People who wonder whether the glass is half  
empty or half full are missing the point.  
The glass is refillable.***



COVID-19 has led many of us to feel despair,  
loneliness and anxiety

## *Being There*

An online group for those who know how this feels

**Being There** is a group for people across the  
Menston area to meet safely and enjoy non-  
judgemental, inclusive friendship and support

Meeting via Zoom, it has its heart at  
St John's Parish Church

At some point in our lives all of us have needed to  
know that there was someone there

**Being There is there for you**

Sunday evenings 7.00pm - 8.00pm

For more information email Rev Andrew  
[beingthere@stjohnmenston.org.uk](mailto:beingthere@stjohnmenston.org.uk)

## PCC Notes

The first PCC following the APCM took place on 19 October using zoom. David Mercer and Hilary Feathers were present as the new churchwardens and Hannah Needle was welcomed as a new member.

A short discussion took place about our vision for the church in Menston followed by prayer.

Colin Alexander as treasurer gave an **update on the finances**. Regular giving was holding up well; the diocesan share will be paid in full by the end of the year; electrical work has been completed at a cost of £1,600 and tree surgery, another £1,600. A letter has been received from the Diocesan Office requesting that reserves could be used to pay share as this is the 'rainy day' that reserves are for. Some churches have seen a sharp reduction in income due to lack of lettings from halls etc or rely on cash giving much more than St John's.

At the next meeting, a decision will be needed about mission giving. Last year PCC agreed to give 5% of unrestricted income for mission which included USPG, A Rocha, Tijanjane clinic, Otley Christian Resources Hub and a contribution to our diocesan share arrears.

It was agreed that a subscription of £250 be paid to OCRH who

provide all the resources for 'Open the Book' etc at the school and for other children's work.

**Church roof fundraising.** After a full discussion, it was decided that it would now be appropriate to ask the village for their support for this project and the requisite letter/leaflets would be finalised and distributed. £67,716 has already been raised and the project is costed at £102,000. Trusts and foundations can be approached once the community has been approached. It was agreed that it was important to underpin all the work on this project with prayer.

Other fabric matters included: a lighting bollard to be replaced; gate lantern to be repaired shortly; chips from the tree needed to be moved off the path; the carpet for north aisle area would be fitted soon and it was requested that the path white lines are repainted.

Further discussion then took place concerning our vision for the role of St John's within the village. Loneliness, digital exclusion; support for neighbours; mental well being; social media; prayer; 150th anniversary; cohesion and being at the centre of the community, were all considered together with work with young people and the role of small groups.

The next PCC meeting is on 23 November.

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Members recently received through the post the 2019 Annual Review reporting on the work undertaken by MU branches throughout the year in Leeds Diocese, and also a letter from the President regarding the membership subscription for 2021, which will be £28.

The letter was self-explanatory and explains how this income is vital to the work of the Mothers' Union world-wide, in addition to the donations it receives from branches in this country. There is a £4 increase over last year, to cover the cost of the new system of mailing information and resource material to each member twice a year which is now included in the subscription.

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, members of St John's MU, like everyone else, have missed out spiritually and socially on our usual activities during the past nine months, but we hope members are still willing to pay the increased subscription to support the work of the Mothers' Union and secure the future of our own branch, where we value our fellowship so much.

As we are unable to meet to collect the subscriptions, other options

are listed below, remembering that they have to be sent off before the end of January 2021:-

- Mail a cheque (made payable to Menston St Johns MU) to Mrs M Boddy, 10 Fairfax Gardens, Menston
- Put the cash or cheque into an envelope clearly marked with your name, and deliver to 10 Fairfax Gardens (or Mrs A Dixon at 3 Greystones Cottages, Park Road, Menston if more convenient)
- If you are unable to leave home, ring the treasurer (870924) who will come and collect from the doorstep (socially distancing of course).

If any member feels unable to continue with their membership because of this increase, the treasurer would appreciate being informed as time will be limited awaiting responses from 26 members.

We send our very best wishes for Christmas to all our members, although it will be a very different celebration to the one we are used to, and hope and pray that we may be able to get back to some form of normality by the spring. With love and prayers.

*Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon*

## Corona Divine

Striding out absorbed, heart-stirred, allured  
By freshening breeze and warming sun  
Till leisured, bracing stroll dissolves  
As soft caress of sprinkling shower  
**Mutates** in sudden, sheeting clouds  
Ink-black. Deluge of surging squall  
Turns favourite track to sodden swamp!

Unwary prey in headlong dash seeks  
Sanctuary from flash-sparked, thunderous clap.  
Ensnared, oak-sheltered, saturate  
From streaming head to feet submerged,  
Entrapped he waits in **shutdown** plight.

At last a startling wondrous thrill  
As breaking clouds unfold. Emergent  
Sun-disc creeps in to magic sight  
With gloom fast-shrunk in fleeting ebb.  
In firmament of azure, Nature's  
Sleight of hand, burgeoning sun bursts  
Overhead. **Released**, enchanted man  
Stands awed at heaven's wizardry,  
Gazing in hope and freed to roam.

Just as in the present pandemonium, when thunder-clouds mass,  
storms rage and life seems cheerless, never forget that the sun will  
surely follow!

*David Machin*

# NOTICE BOARD

**MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
for next year's magazines are due to be collected with delivery of the February issue. The cost of the magazine remains at *60p per copy, £6 for the year*. Please make cheques payable to 'Menston PCC Magazine Account'. 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. There is an additional charge to cover 2nd class postage.

## **WEDDING UPDATE!**

Following our news item in the September magazine, Phillippa and Andrew are now hoping to get married on 12 December 2020 rather than waiting until April 2021. We have no idea at this point whether it will be allowed by then. The buzz word

at the moment, seems to be 'pivoting'. So there might be more of that! Many thanks again for all your good wishes for them.

*Marilyn and Roger Banister.*

## **ROOF APPEAL**

The appeal has currently raised:

From the congregation ~ **£31,023**  
From fundraising opportunities  
~ **£3,446**  
From others ~ **£ 1,238**  
Gift Aid added ~ **£ 6,610**  
This gives a total of ~ **£42,317**

Donations still welcome by:  
BACS to Menston PCC 40-22-28  
A/C 40572640 *Reference* (most imp) : Roof + surname  
or 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.



## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

**FUNERAL SERVICES** *We commend into the hands of Almighty God:*  
5 November: Ann Carr (*St John's*)  
6 November: John Finch (*St John's*)  
7 November: Audrey Linsley (*Harrogate*)  
Olga Clapham  
Sheila Agar

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Luke 2 verses 22-38

God promised the Jews that when times were bad, He would send a Leader to save them. He told Simeon it would happen in his lifetime.

God told Simeon to go to the Temple.



He saw a couple with a baby.

Mary and Joseph had come to give their offerings for their first-born, Jesus, and for child birth.



Simeon held Jesus and praised God.



I can now die in peace because You have kept Your promise.



I have seen the one You have sent to save Your people and all the world!



Mary and Joseph were amazed! Simeon blessed them, but said..



This child will show what people are really like inside and this will mean pain for you as well.



Anna the prophet was also in the Temple.



Her family was from the north of Israel and she was very old.



She spent every day praying in the Temple.

When she saw Jesus she praised God.



Anna spoke about Jesus to everyone who was waiting for God's Saviour.

## POP A POUND for the Roof Appeal

For those who kindly took jam jars to collect pound coins for the church roof appeal - if your jar should be full before next spring then please bring it to church (when we can worship together again) and hand it to the duty warden who will ensure that it is stored in the safe. Please do not just leave it in church because it might go walkabout! Then you can take another jar and start again, because you won't miss a pound or two a week!



Copy for the FEBRUARY magazine is due by **Sunday 17 January 2021**. Please email copy to both editor and Parish Office ([office@stjohnmenston.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohnmenston.org.uk)) or leave copy for typing with the office.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

**2021**

10 January      Jane Pratt  
21 January      Jan Alexander



In the hope that some Christmas services can take place donations of variegated holly will be gratefully accepted so that we can decorate the windowsills! Please leave at the back of church by Thursday 17 December.

## Light Up St John's – Floodlight Sponsorship

*16 December ~ Remembering David*

*1 January ~ Remembering my father with love  
on his birthday*

*Christmas Eve; Christmas Day; New Year's Eve; New Year's Day  
~ Howard Thomas William Goth.  
Always Remembered.*

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