

2021

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PARISH CHURCH
St John the Divine



Remembrance Sunday
14 November



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✓ Insulation	✓ Put up shelving	
✓ plumbing	✓ Hang pictures	

NO JOB TOO SMALL

What's happening about the roof?



I am pleased to say that we have recently received a grant of £7,500 from the Garfield Weston Foundation. This means that we have now received £12,500 in grants and the total of the Roof Appeal amounts to £101,584.

We are now in the process of negotiating with the architect and builder about the best possible use of the funds we have raised. We hope that this will be available for the next PCC meeting in November to enable a decision on agreeing the scope of the building project.

Colin Alexander, Treasurer

The House Keeper

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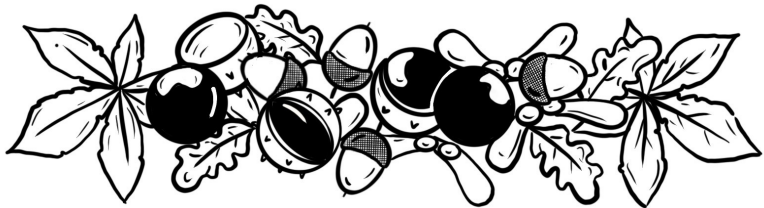
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This month

P6	A View from the Pews	P14	Menston MU news
P7	Prayer Points	P16	All in November
P9	100 years of poppies	p18	Bible Bite

Copy for the *double* December/January magazine is due by **Sunday 14 November**. Please email copy to BOTH editor and Parish Office (office@stjohnmenston.org.uk) or leave copy for typing with the office.

St John's Church is not responsible for the quality of work or services advertised in this magazine

Albany Row

Dear Friends

Taking a moment out to pause reflect and say thank you, and learn compassion?.

November is one of those months when we find ourselves naturally in a reflective mood. It begins with All Souls/All Saints. During the last eighteen months we have all lost or said good bye to so many people. Often not through Covid but still prevented from giving loved ones the send-off that we would have liked or that they had planned for themselves. I still have a heavy heart at the thought of those funeral services held on the front door steps and pavements outside peoples houses, with the coffin in the hearse ready to make its lonely way to the crematorium or cemetery. Fortunately those days did not last long, but there were many, many funerals often restricted to immediate family only, leaving wider circles of families and friends unable to offer comfort and support, unable to acknowledge with gratitude the part that the deceased had played in the wider community. Prevented from showing the compassion and care that we all crave in times of heart break and grief. In years to come I am certain that there will be research projects focused around the depth of damage that was done to so many during the lock down period. I lost count of the number of people who told me that even during the black-outs and the blitz *'at least we could still meet each other!'*

November also leads us to Armistice, Remembrance Day. More reflection on lives given, sacrifices made, *'yesterday's surrendered for our tomorrow'*. Lessons learned? We would hope so wouldn't we, and yet the whole point of remembering is that we keep making the same mistakes, asking for the same sacrifices, *'living today at the cost of tomorrow'*.

Perhaps this month is also a time to practice Compassion; it's the love that recognizes and identifies the value of all that is lost and broken inside of us and other people. Often when we read our Bibles it seems as though we are called through Jesus to learn to love ourselves first, and that taking time out to pray, reflect meditate or study Gods word is an indulgent selfish act. Perhaps that is why it gets squeezed out of out busy lives, we don't see it as important enough, when compared to



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things I have already mentioned. But if we are to emerge to throw off the damage done, to put 2020/2021 behind us there are some things that need to change and where better than starting with us, you, me? To be fully compassionate is to open ourselves to the nature of God. The God who showed himself in the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32) we know the story so well, the son who goes off against his father's wishes and squanders his inheritance, when the money runs out and he realises just how foolish he has been he returns home ... ashamed and remorseful, and not prepared for what his father does.

Truly forgiven, restored accepted and filled with compassion, the two of them stand together out on the open road, each laughing and crying at once. Each causes the other to lose his balance as each holds up the other. Can you picture it? Their awkward dance of compassionate love the dance we all long to dance. For if we are honest we all long for a taste of heaven in the compassionate embrace that welcomes home one who has been lost. . . .

In the actual moment of encounter there is, for the father and son, nothing but their overflowing, compassionate encounter. The parable reveals God's version of reality. It reveals the way God *always* is toward us, regardless of how much loss hurt or brokenness we may have suffered, regardless of how foolish and hurtful we may have been. If we surrender to compassion, we are caught in the embrace of grace that will carry us high. Then, in one single continuous movement of love, compassion draws us into the preciousness of all that is lost and broken within ourselves. The really strange thing is, that the deeper the brokenness, the more deeply compassionate we find the love that reaches into the innermost recesses of our doubts and fears. Suddenly encountering such love, our doubts and fears melt in the love that sets us free.

I expect that we are still a long way from being 'out of the woods', but this month taking a moment to reflect on all that has passed is important, you owe it to your self and Gods compassionate love is waiting with arms out stretched to welcome you home.

God bless you and yours,

Andrew

A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

A few weeks ago, I was fortunate to be reading a bedtime story to my friends' little boy. He chose 'The Owl Who Was Afraid Of The Dark' by Jill Tomlinson – an excellent choice! The story revolves around Plop, a baby barn owl who is, as you might have guessed, afraid of the dark. His parents send him to find people who will explain the wonders of the dark. He discovers that dark can be exciting, fun, necessary and fascinating but I want to focus on the old lady who tells Plop that 'dark is kind.'

The recent Leeds Light Night allowed people to come together as a whole and celebrate the beauty of the city. You will have seen and heard the fireworks as people marked Guy Fawkes' night. Most notably, you will have found yourself putting the lights on even earlier in the afternoon as the nights draw in.

Whilst the fireworks and the Light Night seem to be all about expelling the darkness with bursts of colour and light, they are ineffectual if the darkness didn't exist. The darkness offers us a chance to calm the vibrancy of the world. The nights are usually much quieter and give us a chance to unpack and reflect on the days. In the hubbub of the day the chances to pause are limited so the darkness gives us a valuable space to ponder what we have done and what we could do next.

If you think back to the old lady whom Plop met in his story, she said, 'dark is kind'. She tells Plop that the dark can hide shabby furniture and torn carpets. It can also hide wrinkles and gnarled hands. Perhaps more importantly, the dark allows us to remember – lost loved ones, precious memories, happy moments.

The world is one of opposites – good/evil, rich/poor, light/dark. It is easy to see which are the better sides to be on in the first two pairs but I wonder whether darkness is as bad as it is often made out to be. If it is the absence of light then clearly that is not great but if, on its own merits, darkness is a space to be embraced then we can, like the old lady, see the benefits.

Plop's mother tells him that dark is not just black but is, in fact myriad colours. Sometimes the harshness of the day is covered by the blessed night and it allows us, once again, to focus on the beauty of the world around us.

NOTICE BOARD

ANNUAL LEAF

CLEARANCE There is a churchyard leaf sweep session set for **Saturday 20 November from 9.30 am onwards**. If you are able to help for any amount of time it would be greatly appreciated.

CATHEDRALS QUIZ

Apologies that the answers to last month's quiz disappeared during the printing process.
1 Manchester; 2 Canterbury; 3 Peterborough; 4 Sheffield; 5 Guildford; 6 St Asaph; 7 Dunblane; 8 Chichester; 9 Carlisle; 10 Brecon

Advent Retreat at Parcevall Hall

30 November – 3 December

Arrive Tuesday 4pm, depart Friday 2pm

Leader: Joyce Simpson

Twelve Steps into Advent

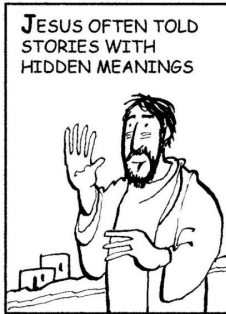
'Let us now go even unto Bethlehem.'

The journey to Bethlehem passes through the wilderness, where John, the desert wild man, insists that change is necessary, and change is coming. As pilgrims, in the company of poets, we shall venture into the wilderness, seeking to confront afresh the silence and resonance of God. With perhaps both hope and fear in our hearts, we shall move expectantly towards the question: 'What might happen if we were to invite God into our lives that bit more radically?'

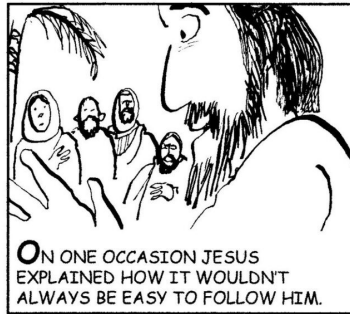
The word, Advent, from its Latin root, 'veni' or 'coming', points towards the coming of Christ. The word is also linked with 'adventure'. We set out on a quest in Twelve Steps, in the company of poets, dangerous human-beings, well known for stirring and shaking habitual responses, for bringing energy and fresh perspectives. So not yet the 'Twelve Days of Christmas', but Twelve Steps into Advent.

For more details and booking, see the Parcevall Hall website
[www.http://parcevallhall.org.uk](http://parcevallhall.org.uk)

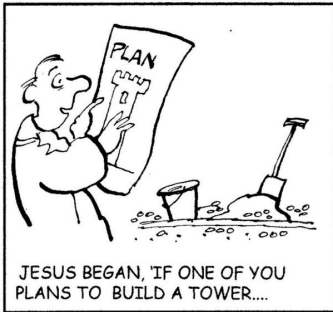
The tale of the Tower Builder



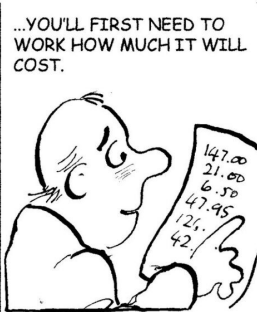
JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



JESUS BEGAN, IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....



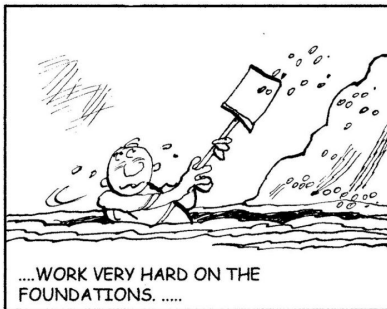
...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



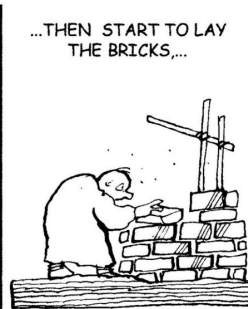
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS....



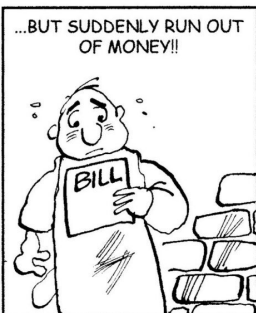
...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START,



....WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS.



...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS....



...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!

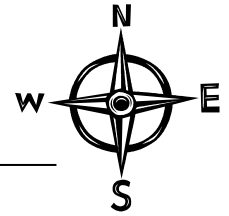


THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.

Prayer Points



A prayer of thankfulness

The world is haphazard and can never be guaranteed. It can leave us with conflicting emotions, from grief and despair one day to joy and happiness the next.

- Pray that we can find balance in our lives: to deal with pain when life is difficult - and to celebrate and appreciate when times are more settled.
- Pray to ease our resentment towards others who seem to have a better life than us.
- Pray to let go of self-doubt when we don't believe who we are and what we are doing is good enough.
- In this unstable world, pray for calm and wisdom – to look around and marvel at those aspects of life for which we can be appreciative and thankful.
- Pray for guidance to effect change where we can; for willingness and strength to help and support those who are suffering, lost or alone.
- Pray for compassion for others – and for ourselves.
- Pray not to take for granted our talents, opportunities, and the luck we have in simply being here.
- Pray to recognize the beauty of life around us, the love and friendship of our family and friends, and our ability to move, laugh and sing.

Dear Lord, help us to find a way to renew our faith, not just in ourselves, but in the world around us – and also in You.

With thanks to Susan Druett for this month's Prayer Points

MORE CHOIR MEMORIES from the 1950s

I read with considerable interest the article in the October magazine on the choir in the 1950s which is on page 10 and can also be found on-line.

Born August 1940 and living in The Homestead with brothers Rodney and Martin, I well remember Helen Paling and her brother David and their father Dale Paling. They lived in Chevin Avenue, The Homestead.

Dale Paling was a strong Labour supporter and used to display his poster with pride. Helen moved to practise law in the Newcastle area and was appointed Recorder on 18 September 1972. David was a mean cricketer at Menston CC.

The Riley family were stalwarts of St John's along with the Gills and Eric Busby who all lived in St John's Park. Many of the other names mentioned are celebrated in the Millennium Book.

I attended Sunday School but was not in the choir. I was confirmed in about 1954 and acted as a server at communion for the next five years, sometimes three times on Sunday! The Rev T C Hammond officiating.

The article recalled many happy memories and emphasised how lucky I have been to live in Menston, then and now.

The photo shows the choir at a different date in the garden of the old vicarage.

I wonder how many people can be identified from both pictures?

Stay safe



Dale Smith

She was a Christian, and became a good friend of Lanfranc, a future archbishop of Canterbury. Her biographer tells of how she read narratives from the Bible to her husband, thus helping to 'civilise' him. He was illiterate, but so admired her reading, that he had her books decorated with gold and silver.

Margaret introduced the worship and practise of the Church of Rome into Scotland. She also wanted to help the many pilgrims travelling in Scotland, and so she established a ferry across the Firth of Forth, which is where the towns South Queensferry and North Queensferry got their names.

In private life, Margaret spent much of her time in prayer, using a cave on the banks of the Tower Burn in Dunfermline as a place of devotion and prayers. St Margaret's Cave is still there today, covered beneath a municipal car park.

Margaret died in 1093, and in 1250 Pope Innocent IV canonised her. Her relics were dispersed after the Scottish Reformation, but at one time Mary, Queen of Scots, owned her head.

... **22 November ~ Stir-up Sunday** an informal term in Anglican churches for the last Sunday before the season of Advent, the day when traditionally families gather(ed) together to prepare the Christmas pudding. It gets its name from the beginning of the collect for the day in the Book of Common Prayer, and not from 'stirring the pudding'.

STIR up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Christmas pudding is said to have been introduced to Britain by Prince Albert. It is usually prepared well in advance (5 weeks before Christmas) and then reheated and lit on Christmas Day. Most families have a favourite recipe or follow one handed down over the generations. Each member of the family takes a turn in stirring the mixture whilst making a wish. The pudding should be stirred from east to west, in honour of the Magi (Wise Men) who came from the east to visit the baby Jesus.

Parish Pump News Service

ALL IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER...

We remember three lesser known Saints

5 November ~ The Kea to toothache?

Kea was an early Christian and a monk from a good family who left Glastonbury to work in Devon and Cornwall, where Landkey (Devon) and Kea (Cornwall) bear his name. He founded several Christian centres in the area before going on to Brittany to become the saint known there as 'Saint-Quay'. It seems that Kea may also have tried a bit of early dentistry, as down the centuries since he has been invoked over the problems of toothaches.

6 November ~ Illtud – patron saint of NGOs?

Not many people have heard of Illtud. He did not set out to be an action hero – he was a gentle and learned abbot heading up a monastery in Glamorgan. He spent his days reading the Scriptures and philosophy. Yet the year that famine struck the coast of Brittany, Illtud put down his parchments and became a man of action.

Illtud issued what must have been one of the earliest 'emergency relief appeals', and was able to collect a great deal of corn. He loaded the corn onto several small ships, and set off across the perilous Channel in order to save the people of Brittany. Perhaps he had in mind the words of Christ: 'I was hungry and you fed me...' Matthew 25:35.

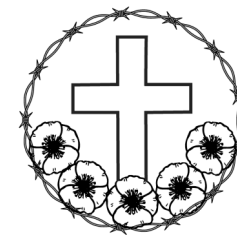
Certainly, the people of Brittany never forgot Illtud's kindness towards them: even today some Breton churches and villages bear his name. Many churches in Wales are also dedicated to this compassionate man.

16 November ~ St Margaret of Scotland

Margaret of Scotland has been called 'The Pearl of Scotland', but she began life in Hungary about 1045. She was born to the expatriate English prince Edward the Exile, and so was an English princess. The family returned to Wessex in 1057, when she was 13, and following the death of King Harold II at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, her brother Edgar Aetheling should have been King of England, but he was never crowned. Instead, the family fled north, to Scotland, where she was married to Malcolm III of Scotland by 1070. As a Scottish queen she went on to become mother of three kings of Scotland, and of a queen consort of England.

100 YEARS OF RED POPPIES

Amid the mud, blood and carnage of trench warfare in World War 1, tens of thousands of bright red poppies grew, marking the graves of the fallen. This led John McCrae, a Canadian army physician who had lost a colleague, to write 'In Flanders Fields',



*In Flanders fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place, and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly.*

This image inspired the adoption of a red poppy as the symbol of all soldiers who had died in conflict. **Exactly 100 years ago, on the 11 November 1921**, poppies of remembrance were sold for the first time in British and Commonwealth countries. Hostilities had actually ceased three years earlier at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

This year, on Sunday 14 November, the nearest Sunday, a two-minute silence will be kept at war memorials throughout the country, and at the national ceremony at the Cenotaph in London's Whitehall. The Queen will pay tribute alongside Members of the Government, the Mayor of London, representatives of the Armed Forces and many others. All will wear a red poppy.

Around 30 million poppies are sold each year in the UK by the Royal British Legion. All the proceeds are used to provide serving and ex-service personnel with financial support, advice, employment, mobility, housing and mental health facilities.

Today we are more aware than ever that battles are fought mainly by young people, and many of those who survive bear scars for life. The act of '**remembering**' will not only look back to mark their sacrifice, but also yearn to learn lessons for the future.





This month:

Since Covid-19 restrictions have eased, St John’s branch of the MU has met twice to assess the future support of members and to discuss the way forward. Eleven members came to the first meeting and sixteen to the second, which was quite encouraging. It was good to meet together again to catch up on news and discuss the future.

It was decided to meet only once a month in future instead of twice, especially during the winter months, and this will be the first Tuesday of each month. This will mean fewer opportunities for a varied programme of topics and activities as we have had in the past, but the main aim is to maintain our fellowship with each other and connection with our church.

Meetings take place in the Parish Room unless otherwise stated. The following dates have been confirmed:-

2 November 2.15pm Poems and stories - David Machin

7 December 2.15pm Advent Miscellany

2022

4 January 2.15pm Subscription Afternoon and Stories from the Parish Registers with Mrs Glenys Prince

Saturday

8 January 11.00am Annual MU Wave of Prayer

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Bishops demand climate action at COP26

Church of England Bishops join leaders of other major faiths to demand climate action at COP26 in Glasgow. Faith leaders have been joining together to demand climate action ahead of the COP26 meeting in Glasgow - 1 - 12 November.

Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich, and lead Bishop on the Environment for the Church of England, signed the letter alongside leaders of every major Christian denomination and representatives from Baha’i, Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh communities.

The declaration states: *‘We remind governments of their commitments made in Paris in 2015 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, and of Article 17 of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights to protect the environment, the biosphere and biodiversity.*

‘We call upon them to take the urgent action needed to avert the loss, damage, and forced migration threatened by climate change.

‘Across our doctrinal and political differences, we know that we must change our ways to ensure a quality of life which all can share. We need to provide hope for people of all ages, everywhere, including future generations.

‘To offer hope in the world we need to have confidence that those in power understand the vital role they have to play at the Glasgow COP26.’

The Glasgow Declaration pledges a response to the challenge set by the climate emergency through being ‘advocates for justice by calling on governments, businesses and others who exercise power and influence to put into effect the Paris agreement; to make the transition to a just and green economy a priority; and to commit to science-based targets that are aligned with a healthy, resilient, zero-emissions future.’

Parish Pump News Service

Worship this month

7 Nov ALL SAINTS / ALL SOULS
Readings: Isaiah 25: 6-9; John 11: 32-44
First reading: Peter Wilbraham

9.30am Zest
 11.00am Parish Eucharist
 4.30pm Remembering Together - all Souls Service
 6.00pm The Junction: *Exploring Faith, Learning Together*

14 Nov REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

9.30am Zest
10.45am Joint service at Kirklands
 6.00pm The Junction: *Exploring Faith, Learning Together*

21 Nov CHRIST THE KING
Readings: Isaiah 42: 1-7; John 18: 33-37
First reading: Jane Pratt

9.30am Zest
 11.00am Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist
 6.00pm The Junction: *Exploring Faith, Learning Together*

28 Nov ADVENT SUNDAY
Readings: Isaiah 49: 1-6; Luke 21: 25-36
First reading: Jenny Steele

9.30am Zest
 11.00am Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist
 6.00pm The Junction: *Exploring Faith, Learning Together*

5 Dec The SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT
Readings: Isaiah 50: 4-9; Luke 3: 1-6
First reading: Ros Wilkinson

9.30am Zest
 11.00am Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist
 6.00pm The Junction: *Exploring Faith, Learning Together*

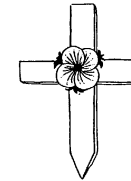
MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

9.30am *Thursdays: 4 / 11 / 18 / 25*

REMEMBERING TOGETHER; ALL SOULS ~ 7 November 4.30pm Families of those whose funerals have taken place recently will be invited to attend to remember those we love but have lost.

We will automatically read out the names of those who have had a funeral at St John's since November 2019. If you would like any extra names to be read out, please contact the Parish Office via phone or email by *midday Wednesday 3 November*.

REMEMBRANCE DAY ~ 11 NOVEMBER There will be a short service at Kirklands War Memorial beginning just before 11am.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
Sunday 14 November Once again, Menston churches are joining with Menston Parish Council to mark Remembrance Sunday. The service will take place **outside Kirklands** in front of the War Memorial and begins at **10.45am**. It is a traditional Remembrance Day service and will include the reading of names of the fallen, sounding of the Last Post, two minutes silence and laying of wreaths. Please encourage friends and neighbours to attend this special village event.

NEW FOR SUNDAY NIGHTS
The Junction: Exploring Faith, Learning Together Join us for a new informal worship service every Sunday night, where we come together to grow in faith. Weekly at 6pm.

The Den: Youth Hangout.
 A space for anyone aged 11 - 16 to meet together for food, games, discussion and prayer. Every Sunday night after The Junction, until 8pm in the Parish Room. See our website for more info: www.stjohnmenston.org.uk

On Covid and local churches
The Ven Bob Jackson, author, church growth consultant, and Visiting Fellow St Johns College Durham, talking to Church Times.

'The way the churches switched to operating online was a triumph, a piece of divine redemption. The great gain for individuals is that they can access any church in the world at any time of their choosing, wherever they are, on whatever device they have.

'Former churchgoers now too frail for the pews can remain in the congregation. Those who are away, ill, working or otherwise busy, can still attend church, a bit later on. Spiritual seekers, who formerly would not have known where to start, can now begin their journey to Jesus online.'

Thank you to Steve and Andrew for establishing St John's on-line presence during the worst of the Covid crisis.