

2025

M
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MENSTON
PARISH CHURCH
St John the Divine



Annual Parochial Meeting

Sunday 11 May - 11am

£1

THE BEAUTY OF MATHEMATICS!

$$9 \times 9 + 7 = 88$$

$$98 \times 9 + 6 = 888$$

$$987 \times 9 + 5 = 8888$$

$$9876 \times 9 + 4 = 88888$$

$$98765 \times 9 + 3 = 888888$$

$$987654 \times 9 + 2 = 8888888$$

$$9876543 \times 9 + 1 = 88888888$$

$$98765432 \times 9 + 0 = 888888888$$

Brilliant, isn't it?



This month

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Copy for the **JUNE** magazine is due by **Sunday 11 May**. 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 am writing this article on Good Friday. Having spent time last night (Maundy Thursday) confessing, worshipping, hearing of our Lord's Passion, praying psalms for deliverance and then spending time in extended prayer I am feeling **grateful** and **free**.

Grateful because the injustice and pain Jesus endured for me and for you. He pursued love and goodness and God's Kingdom no matter what the circumstances nor the consequences. On the Cross whilst still in pain he asks for God to forgive those who cause it. How deep is His love for us and the whole world?

Justice matters. Our call is to love others as we love ourselves. Things need to be put right. Pain, chaos, death and destruction were never meant to be. Justice is the heart of the Gospel. But so too is the mercy of God. We have caused all that mars God good world, but rather than us paying the ultimate price, Jesus offered himself in our stead. That we need not die. He took our place, just like you would wish to do if someone you love was facing a terrible trial or consequence. **I am grateful. Are you?**

Free because I know God loves me, and there is nothing beyond his redemption and restoration. Even our worst fears and pains can and will be overcome. Don't believe me? Look at the Cross. Then look to the empty tomb. Hear the words of those who saw him. See how they were changed by meeting the Risen Christ.

Death could not hold him, and he promises it won't hold us.

He has opened the gate of Glory. **I am free. Are you?**

So as we live in the light of our Risen Lord, and the victory of Easter, I pray you know in the depths of your heart that the Cross was not the end of the story, and neither is your grief, nor will your next trial or crisis be. Do not fear. You are loved and held.

He is Risen!

Be grateful! Be free!

And share His LOVE with the world.

Jo

FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

30 March

We welcome into the Lord's family:

Krishna Berwick Bahuleyan

Saisree Bahuleyan

Zakai Easaa Berwick

HOLY MATRIMONY *We extend our congratulations to:*

3 May

James Sibble & Krystina Wiggs

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

24 April

Ian Dorman R.I.P.

A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

When I was young the springtime would bring great anticipation. I love watching sport (not so much taking part). The Grand National, the Boat Race, the US Masters and the culmination of the football season all served to keep me thrilled and anti-social for weeks on end. Now I notice the subtle changes that have dampened the romance of these occasions. The fences at the Grand National are lower making it more likely the result can be predicted. The crews in the Boat Race are more often professional sportsmen and women rather than the enthusiastic amateurs of before. Technology has improved golfing technique but limited the ability of surprise. Money in football has meant the trophies are shared out by an ever-smaller coterie of clubs; though it would be remiss not to try to curry favour and sing the praises of Newcastle United's recent trophy win!

The removal of risk, challenge and surprise from much of sport has made it less enjoyable to watch and has created a world where everything can be predicted and therefore predictable. And yet...

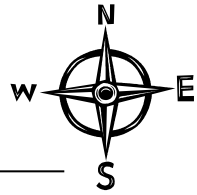
There have still been surprise winners of the National, the River Thames can throw up unpredictable tides to challenge the Boat Race crews. The manufactured fairways and cultivated greens at Augusta can still bamboozle even the best golfers and perennial nearly men can stand in the Royal Box at Wembley and send a whole city into delirium.

In a predictable world it is joyful to watch as the unpredictable has its day in the sun. Though I doubt those working in the financial markets would be quite so happy at recent unpredictability!

What fascinates me and keeps me tuning into sport is that, try as we might, we cannot completely 'fix' the result – at least not without some nefarious shenanigans. As with sport so it would seem with life. We can try our best to cheat disease and illness by going to the gym, eating the right foods and drinking carefully and yet we can still be caught up in a terrible situation. My thoughts turn to Sir Chris Hoy – an Olympic titan who will eventually be claimed early by cancer. We can study hard, work hard and prepare meticulously and still the dream job may elude us.

So, should we even bother trying if it is all down to fate? Of course we should. And by putting our trust in God we learn that however unpredictable life is, God's plan, known only to Him will always be the right one. Mind you, I wouldn't mind if He let West Ham win once in a while!

Prayer Points



We are in a time that marks the transition from Spring to Summer; May - a month of rebirth and movement into warmth, long evenings and re-awakenings. Just look at the flowers opening and spreading their petals wide, see the glorious green canopies as the trees come into full leaf cover.

The harsh winter months are behind us and we can look forward, confidently to June and July – relishing the new season.

It's a time to rejoice and celebrate the natural beauty of the world that God has given us.

Eleanor Farjeon's *Morning Has Broken* evokes the beginning of each new summer day:

Mine is the sunlight; mine is the morning.
Born of the one light Eden saw play.
Praise with elation; praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day.

Use this time to explore a new world of bright optimism. As Malcolm Guite, an English poet, Anglican priest and academic, says in his poem *First Steps*, it's time to leave the dark behind you:

Take the adventure, step beyond the hearth,
Shake off at last the shackles that confined you,
And find the courage for the forward path.
You yearned for freedom through the long night watches,
The day has come and you are free to choose,
Now is your time and season.
Companioned still by your familiar crutches,
And leaning on the props you hope to lose,
You step outside and widen your horizon.

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

ECO CHURCH NEWS



Seed sowing

Thanks to everyone who enthusiastically sowed seeds on a glorious morning in early April. We are hoping for a great harvest of potatoes, beetroot, chard, radish, beans and peas!

Eco quiz for all ages

All welcome to the Eco quiz on Saturday 3 May. Tickets at £10 for a family and £4 for individuals are now on sale from the office or the Eco Church team. Ticket prices include savoury and sweet courses plus loads of fun eco questions.

Eco tips for May- Money magic!

1. *Spend less money!* Just about every pound we spend has environmental costs (except investing in environmental projects). So with wealth comes more responsibility.
2. *Donate to charities* that alleviate the effects of climate change, as well as being compassionate to our local, global and generational neighbours it can save you 500kg CO₂e a year.
3. *Move your bank account* to an ethical bank who invests your money in low carbon, ethical, environmental projects, such as the Triodos Bank. Ethical Consumer (like *Which?*) provide independent advice www.ethicalconsumer.org
4. *Move your pension*, if you can, to an ethical environmental provider who is not investing your money in fossil fuels. Ethical Consumer (like *Which?*) provide independent advice www.ethicalconsumer.org

If you are interested in joining the eco group, do get in touch. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 18 June April at 7.45pm.

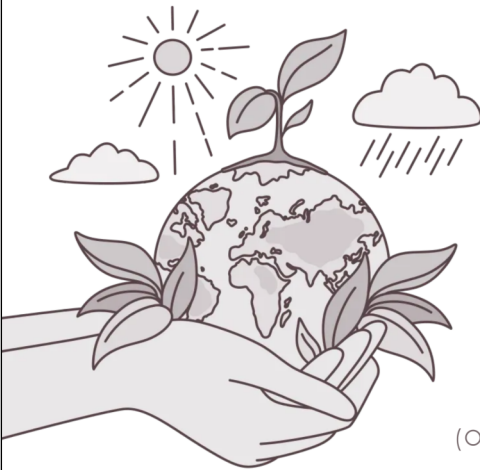
Marilyn, Catherine, Sally , Matthew and Jen.

Family Eco Quiz

A family fun Eco Quiz with food!

Food: jacket potatoes + toppings followed by cake
Drinks: tea, coffee, squash

**Saturday 3rd May
4 - 6 pm in the Parish Room**



FAMILY
TICKET - £10

INDIVIDUAL
TICKET - £4

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
THE ECO TEAM AT CHURCH
OR THE PARISH OFFICE
(OFFICE@STJOHNMENSTON.ORG.UK)

Remembering VE Day – 80 years on

80 years ago, on 8 May 1945, VE Day took place – marking Victory in Europe at the end of World War 2. It was celebrated as a public holiday, and came exactly a week after German radio announced the death in action of Adolf Hitler.

In reality, Hitler had committed suicide on 30 April. His successor, Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz, quickly negotiated an end to the war with the Allies – at the same time trying with some success to prevent as many Germans as possible from falling into Soviet hands.

Field Marshal Montgomery accepted the unconditional surrender of German forces in the Netherlands, north-west Germany and Denmark at a ceremony near Hamburg on 4 May. All German forces then surrendered to Supreme Allied Commander General Eisenhower on 7 May at Reims, France. Soviet leader Josef Stalin had his own ceremony, in Berlin.

The announcement that the war had ended in Europe was broadcast to the British people by the BBC late on 7 May. It was decreed that there would be a national holiday the next day, and the stage was set for huge celebrations. Prime Minister Churchill had been assured that there was enough beer in the capital, and commemorative items, including VE Day mugs, were quickly produced.

St Paul's Cathedral held ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each one attended by thousands of people, and churches throughout the country rang their bells for the first time since the outbreak of war. The Royal Family played a central role, appearing eight times on the balcony of Buckingham Palace while huge numbers of people flocked down The Mall.

In the United States, VE Day coincided with President Harry S Truman's 61st birthday: he dedicated the victory to the memory of his predecessor, Franklin D Roosevelt, who had died of a stroke less than a month earlier. Both Truman and Churchill pointed out that the war against Japan had not yet been won. That final victory was more than three months away.

The end of a war is never neat. In Europe the last known shots on the Eastern Front were actually fired on 11 May, and on 25 May the battle of Odžak ended in a Yugoslav Partisan victory. Tragically, in French Algeria, Muslims celebrating the end of the war (some also peacefully protesting for independence) were “inexcusably” massacred by colonial authorities and militias – leading eventually to the Algerian War nine years later.

Parish Pump News Service

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

Sunday 11 May ~ 11am

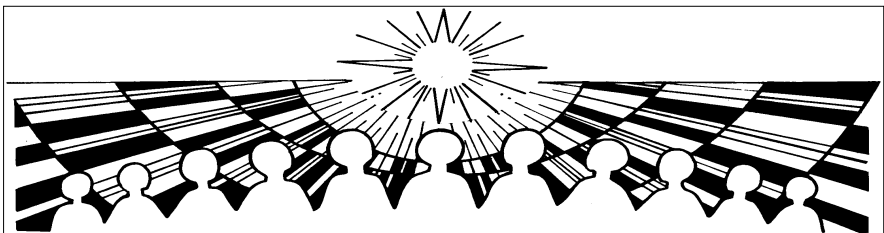
To be held in church and to be followed by a short said Service of Holy Communion.

AGENDA

- Election of 2 Churchwardens
- Election of 2 Deanery Synod members to serve for 1 year. *Automatically members of PCC*
- Election of PCC members:
 - 4 to serve for 3 years*
 - 1 to serve for one year*
- Treasurer's Report

Please think and pray about nominations and whether you are prepared to stand for any of the vacancies.

Please notify Revd Jo by Tuesday 6 May either by email or in writing, of any questions you wish to raise at the meeting.



Worship this month

4 May The Third Sunday of EASTER
Readings: Acts 9: 1-6; John 21: 1-19
Reader: Diane Beaumont

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist

11 May The Fourth Sunday of EASTER
Readings: Acts 9: 36-43; John 10: 22-30
Reader: Glenys Prince

9.30am Zest with Communion
11.00am Parish Eucharist

18 May The Fifth Sunday of EASTER
Readings: Acts 11: 1-18; John 13: 31-35
Reader: Adele Maddy

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist
3.00pm The Core in the Parish Room

25 May The Sixth Sunday of EASTER
Readings: Acts 16: 9-15; John 14: 23-29
Reader: Geoff Druett

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist

1 June The Seventh Sunday of EASTER
Readings: Acts 16: 16-34; John 17: 20-26
Reader: Sai Bahuleyan

9.30am Zest with Communion
11.00am Parish Eucharist

MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

9.30am *Thursdays: 1 / 8 / 15 / 22 / 29 May / 5 June*

WORSHIP NOTES

CONFIRMATION SERVICE Tuesday 20 May, 7pm.

All are welcome to attend our Confirmation Service led by Bishop Toby. If you'd like to take this next step, or know more about it, please speak to Jo or Andrew.

**Ascension Day
29 May 7pm**
service with the
Methodists at St
John's .



The NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. . .

This month, 1700 years ago, one of the most important meetings in the history of the Christian Church began in the city of Nicaea. It began in May 325 and went on until the end of July 325.

The Council of Nicaea was convened by the Roman Emperor Constantine, and he had an urgent job for the Christian bishops to do. He wanted them to spell out as exactly as they could the core beliefs of the Christian Church, especially with regard to the person of Christ.

Constantine had good reason to do this: a man called Arius of

Alexandria was spreading the idea that Jesus Christ was not divine, but instead was a created being. Such a belief, if accepted, would have changed the very heart of Christianity.

After three months of hard work, the bishops at Nicaea had prayerfully and carefully written down as exactly as they could the core beliefs of Christianity. It became known as the Nicene Creed, and it has been the bedrock of orthodox Christianity ever since.

The Nicene Creed is unique in that it is the only Christian statement of faith that is accepted as authoritative by the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and major Protestant Churches.

Parish Pump New Service

PCC Notes - *Judith Knaggs*

The meeting on 24 March 2025 commenced with prayers and a Bible reading by the Revd Joanna Glenwright.

The following points were discussed during the meeting:

- A decision has yet to be made as to whether to provide refreshments in church after the 11am service - awaiting further feedback.
- A suggestion was put to the PCC that we may consider setting up a choir at St Johns - to be discussed at a later date.
- It was decided that it would be helpful to members of the congregation to offer transport assistance to church - to be considered and discussed in more detail at the next meeting.
- Safer recruitment of volunteers - ongoing.

The PCC AAWAY DAY held at St Mary's Parish Centre, Burley-in-Wharfedale on Saturday 15 March 10am - 3pm proved to be very successful and enjoyable with lunch provided by a local cafe.

We discussed a vision for the future of St John's, finance strategy, inclusion, children and families, community engagement, better church

access and priorities for 2025 and 2026

FINANCE A review of the 2024 accounts was discussed and scrutinised with various issues being raised. They were approved and the 2025 budget will be drawn up when an expected legacy is received.

The PCC offered thanks to Iain Johnson and James Sheppard for all their hard work with the church finances.

ELECTORAL ROLL

A new roll is to be set up this year which everyone needs to complete by Sunday 20 April.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A second **Music In The Air'** concert will be held in church on Saturday 21 June from 3-5pm. If you are interested in being part of the St John's singing group, get in touch with Marilyn Banister. Details on the poster on *p17*.

A Bible Bash and Prayer Slam is to take place in church on 28 June from 9am for 24 hours. The New Testament will be read plus prayer stations.

Our next PCC Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday 13 May.

The meeting ended with The Grace



This month:

6 May 1.00pm Project Lunch in the Parish Room
Ticket price £7

This is our annual social event to raise funds for our MU charities, and is a buffet lunch with wine or soft drinks, and a raffle. We also have a bring and buy stall and a card and book stall, so donations for these from members would be much appreciated. Payment for the lunch will be taken on the door, and we look forward to an enjoyable afternoon together.

Advance notice The date of our summer lunch outing has had to be changed because of a shortage of car drivers. The outing planned to Yorkgate garden centre at Adel will now be on Wednesday 4 June leaving Menston at 12 noon. Our meetings are always on a Tuesday but the garden centre is unfortunately closed on that day hence the change to a Wednesday. As numbers are limited because of the small cafe, the list is now full. This is a reminder for members on the list about the changes involved. Any concerns, please contact Dorothy Slater on 879536.

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At our last meeting on 1 April, Looking Forward to Easter, we were pleased to welcome Andrew our Associate Priest, after a long absence due to his health concerns.

Andrew told several stories (in a dramatical way with costume changes!) which may have happened to fictional ordinary people in the area during the day of the Crucifixion and how they witnessed it. A great deal of preparation must have gone into this wonderful performance, and members were enthralled with all the different stories and the images they evoked. We offer him our grateful thanks and look forward to having him as our speaker again sometime in the future.

Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon

Menston Heritage Group

The Heritage Trail leaflet is now available! Copies at church and in the library etc. It pulls together local information on various landmarks in the village as well as people.

We will be promoting the trail through Bradford 2025 and hoping that visitors will enjoy a visit to our village by making use of the trail.

Tuesday 8 May marks the 80th Anniversary of VE Day and we hope to mount a display in the library of stories about local people's memories.



Supported by
Shipley Area Committee



Climate Action Menston

On Wednesday 21 May at 7.30pm in Kirklands we will be hearing about 'The Library of Things' that is based in Ilkley and loans out 'rarely used' items to save you buying your own. The idea is that we buy less stuff and so help the planet survive the onslaught of consumerism. It should be really interesting and we are delighted that Erika Shilling who runs the project is able to join us. Do come along - non members are always welcome.

We will also be holding our Annual General Meeting and receiving various reports and electing officials.

If you would like to know more about what we do, contact Marilyn or see www.climateactionmenston.org.uk



Saturday 21st June, 3 - 5pm

Music in the air

St John's Church, Burley Lane,
Menston, LS29 6EU

Join us at St John's to hear
local musicians of all ages
making music for local people



£5 per adult including
refreshments. Children go free.
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email office@stjohnmenston.org.uk
text 07440289248, or leave
a message at 01943 872433.
In aid of church funds.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
John chapter 5 verses 1-18

Jesus was in Jerusalem for a festival, and he visited the pool of Bethesda. People said that an angel sometimes made the water ripple.

Sick people waited for the water to ripple, because they thought that the first person in would be healed.



Jesus went up to a man who had been sick for 38 years.



Do you want to be healed?

I've got no-one to put me in the pool, so I can never get in first.



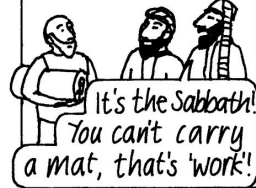
Pick up your mat and walk!



He was healed! The man picked up his mat and walked around. But it was the Sabbath.

God had given the law that the Sabbath day was a rest day (Ex20: 8-11)... but to make sure it was kept, the Jewish leaders had made up rules, and then more rules so that anything that even might be work was banned.

The Jewish leaders saw the healed man.



It's the Sabbath! You can't carry a mat, that's 'work'!

The man who healed me told me to carry it.



Which man?

I don't know.

Later, Jesus found the man in the temple.



You are healed now, but don't sin any more, or something worse might happen to you.

Now the man knew who Jesus was...



he went straight back to the Jewish leaders to tell them.

and they went to Jesus



You were working on the Sabbath!

My father, God, doesn't stop working on the Sabbath so I keep on working as well

Not only does he disobey our Sabbath rules, but he says he is equal to God!



We definitely have to kill him.

ALTAR FLOWERS

11 May In memory of Iris Nerurkar

18 May Judith Knaggs

NEW ROTA

The new rota for altar flowers is now in the church porch.
Thank you to all who have signed up - a few dates remain.

EASTER LILIES

Thank you to all those who have donated so very generously towards the cost of the Easter lilies and to Carole, Judith and Sue who helped to arrange them on Holy Saturday. It was a pleasure to do so and to help St John's celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Day.

Jan Alexander



Light Up St John's – Floodlight Sponsorship

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.



16 April Remembering my husband on his anniversary

22 April Special memories of my husband, remembered with love everyday.

Contact the Parish Office to make arrangements: 872433 or office@stjohnmenston.org.uk

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1/6th page ~ £58/year

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available on
request.*

Miscellaneous observations:

If you can't be kind, at least have
the decency to be vague.

A clear conscience is the sign of a bad
memory. *Mark Twain*



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Join Us!

Home Instead Activities Group in Partnership with Kirklands Community Centre

1st Tuesday of every month, 10am-1pm, Library at Kirklands
Community Centre Menston

Memory Cafe

1st Wednesday of every month, 10am-12pm, Cornerstone Cafe
Menston

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Contact Kathryn Lindsay BSc(Hons)

Andrew Lindsay BSc(Hons)

Phone 01943 872716

Email info@thefootpeople.co.uk

Website www.thefootpeople.co.uk

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