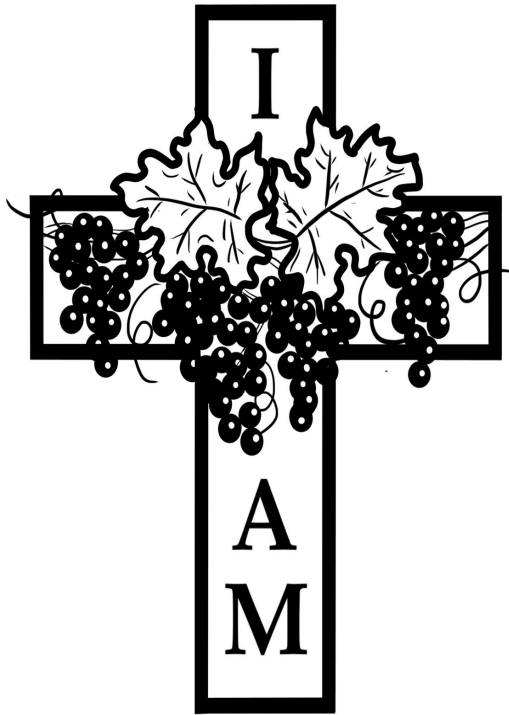


2024

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PARISH CHURCH
St John the Divine



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Contact Kathryn Lindsay BSc(Hons)

Andrew Lindsay BSc(Hons)

Phone 01943 872716

Email info@thefootpeople.co.uk

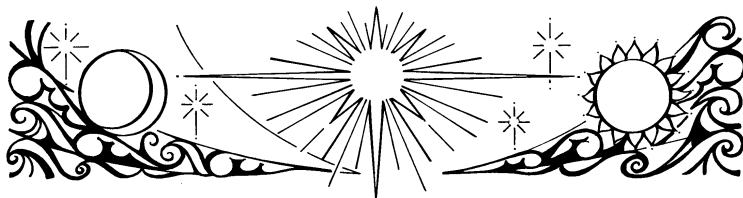
Website www.thefootpeople.co.uk

An invitation to a Deanery Meeting

On Thursday 13 June at 7.30pm in St Thomas' Church in Sutton, South Craven and Wharfedale Deanery will be hearing from Geoff Park, the Chief Financial Officer for the Diocese. He will be giving an update on the Diocesan finances, the share that is requested from parishes and answering questions.

The meeting is open to all, ie. you do not have to be on Deanery! So if you want to know about money and the Diocese - come along.

Marilyn, Deanery Lay Chair. 874220.



This month	P11 Personal Growth
P6 A View from the Pews	P15 Menston MU news
P7 Prayer Points	p18 Bible Bites
P8 Parish Pump celebrates	P19 APCM results & notices

Copy for the double JULY / AUGUST magazine is due by **Sunday 16 June**. Please email copy to both editor and Parish Office (***office@stjohnmenston.org.uk***) or leave copy for typing with the office.

Albany Row

Dear Friends

You will hopefully have read by now about the graveyard closure and the lengths that we have gone to, to advise families and friends of the remedial work needed on the damaged gravestones, and of the future maintenance work that will come under the responsibility of Bradford MDC. Our graveyard is an important piece of local Menston heritage and history, and we do want to treasure it the best we can.

From a Health and Safety perspective, it was curious to see which gravestones the stone mason was most concerned about. Some of the memorials selected for his attention appeared to the undiscerning eye to look ok, whilst the expert ignored some stones that are very laid back in their appearance! The rationale in the end made sense, but it did seem bizarre. It was about which would not move very much in the next 10 years.

This whole episode made me reflect on how we see each other. Sometimes we look at people who are weighed down by burdens and responsibilities, and yet in spite of how they look, their faith and their resilience mean that they are stronger and more secure than we may assume. Others, however, appear to be firm and stable but actually below the surface they may be really unravelling without anyone being aware.

As a caring community we need to make sure that everyone finds the support that they need. We have some wonderful pastoral care that goes on through St Johns. We are blessed to have a number of people who listen out for people, who visit when needed, who are able to take communion to people at home, and on the surface, it looks like all is taken care of. However, we must never just assume it to be the case. I know that both Wendy and I would rather hear three or four times about people's concerns than not hear at all.

You will also see that the graveyard often looks in need of a good cut, this is another reason for handing it over to the local authority.

Our team of mowers have done a great job over the years, but we could do with some younger fit volunteers who would be willing to be shown how the mower and the strimmer work and be willing to help us between official cuts. Please let me know if you are interested in helping us out.

As an eco-church we try to encourage the wildlife around the Churchyard. Our 'No-mow May/June' excuses our overgrown appearance, but also essentially supports the important variety of insects that contribute to our food cycle. Ladybirds, butterflies, bees, and beetles are tiny airborne creatures and by providing a habitat full of rich pollen and grasses, we are providing them with a good environment at this time of year. Its also exciting to sit on one of our benches in the churchyard at dusk and witness the bats flying about from the trees and across the sky.

The church garden will remain under our care and attention and again we are indebted to Chris and Kathy Roberts and their team of volunteers who keep the gardens so lovely. Again, no one is turned away. So if you have a few spare hours to help out do let Kathy know. It was Dorothy Frances Gurney (1858-1932) who wrote the poem dedicated to Gardeners 'The kiss of the sun for pardon, the Song of the birds for mirth, - one is nearer God's heart in a garden, than anywhere else on earth'.

Who would have thought that our churchyard would prompt thoughts about history and heritage, or the hidden needs of each other, the space and opportunity for volunteers, the important stewardship of the eco-church project, and the meditative benefits of our church yard. If you don't already feature it in your regular exercise route, its well worth adding this treasured corner of our community into a regular patten. As one man said to me once, 'that's the best view in Menston'.

God bless you and yours,

Andrew

A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

My father who, after a rather interesting and circuitous route has found his spiritual home in the Roman Catholic Church, thinks all people who do not share his version of the Good News of Jesus Christ are delusional. My elder brother, who works as a neurosurgeon and is guided by provable science, thinks all people who do believe in the improbable wonder of God are delusional. I love both these men dearly but the disagreements I have with them on this matter can create a certain tension to the relationships.

So how do we deal with people who have a fundamental rejection of what we believe and vice versa? We could do the terribly British thing of acknowledging the disagreement initially and then never talking of it again...ever!

I find that to be a rather unsatisfying way of doing things. It is true we live in a society and world and among people where such disagreements on a vast array of topics are commonplace. If we don't address them and seek resolution to them how on earth are we to progress as a society and as a species?

Tony Blair, Bertie Ahern Sen George Mitchell and all involved in the Good Friday Agreement recognised that ultimate resolution might not be possible but talking through the differences meant the participants were able to articulate their hopes, fears and find common ground on which to build a largely peaceful future.

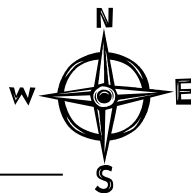
On Sundays we often pray for the people of Ukraine, Israel and Gaza and the other places of conflict and turmoil in the world. Can we see a vision of a peaceful future in these places where people of all traditions can feel valued? It seems to me this only comes about through acknowledgment and acceptance of the other.

I accept that my father's manifestation of faith will never match my own and we are resolved to find the common ground that exists across the different Christian traditions. I further accept that my brother's resolute atheism means he cannot understand why I go to church on Sundays, but we find common joy in family and our shared history and experience.

The upshot of all this is that, as Churchill is attributed as saying 'Jaw jaw is better than war war.' We will all meet people with whom we have clear disagreements. The general election later this year will bring those disagreements into stark relief.

It is our civic duty, I contend, to be true to our own beliefs but to disagree respectfully, honestly and with a touch of British humour.

Prayer Points



We're told that June is the beginning of the meteorological summer even though Midsummer's Day is only a few days away. But, no matter what the weather forecasters say, multitudes of different flowers are appearing in gardens and throughout the countryside, so for that we give thanks.

*For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise!*

Father Sandford Pierpoint

But we must remember those who live in lands which are not so fertile or are devastated by war, violence or natural disaster.

*O God, we want to praise and thank you for
giving us so much to enjoy in your world.
Open our eyes to see all the beauty around us,
to appreciate your greatness in giving us the
different seasons, each helping to fulfill our needs.
And if we do not understand why nature is
sometimes cruel and harsh and why people
suffer from earthquakes and other disasters in
your world, help us to trust where we cannot see,
knowing that you love us all.
Help us to do what we can to relieve the suffering
and hardships caused by these disasters and
those caused by human errors.
Make us willing and eager to share the many good
things you have provided for the benefit of all.*

Nancy Martin

With thanks to Wendy Thornhill for this month's Prayer Points

Parish Pump turns 25!

Parish Pump has reached a significant anniversary. They have now completed a full 25 years of production providing copy every month since the July 1999 issue.

Readers of this magazine will have seen a variety of articles in the years that I have edited this magazine supplied by the Parish Pump News Service. When copy is a little short I know that I can always find something of interest on their website. We pay a very reasonable annual subscription which is well worth it - they are a magazine editor's lifeline!

In a message to celebrate their anniversary, Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell said, 'Well-produced magazines can play a vital role in helping churches reach out into their local communities, and to bring the Christian gospel into many people's homes. Even in a digital world, paper-based communications can help build bridges for local churches.'

'I'm deeply appreciative of the effort put in by numerous church magazine editors, and of the important, creative support that Parish Pump has provided over the past 25 years. I congratulate its editor, Anne Coomes, on her commitment to first-class communications through those years.'

Looking back, Anne says: 'It has been a real labour of love to edit and produce Parish Pump over all those years. I have a wonderful group of contributors who write on a wide range of subjects, and we receive so many grateful messages from magazine editors.'

'Parish Pump is a key part of my vocation to serve the Church. I feel passionate about church magazines, as they may be the *only* Christian literature that many people ever see, and so they are a wonderful way in which local churches can communicate the gospel to their communities.'

The increase in online communications and the difficulty in recruiting editors has led many churches to stop producing a printed magazine. That, and along with the effects of Covid, means that the number of Parish Pump's subscribers has now dropped to below 1,400.

Anne says: 'Each month, I receive news of magazines closing down – but also of new ones opening up. Overall, the trend is downwards, and that's a shame as not everyone is able to go online. Magazines can reach people who would never search out a church website.

'The suspension of printed magazines during Covid was very difficult for many churches and editors. Many began posting their magazine online and that trend has continued.'

Editor: This article explains many of my own feelings about St John's magazine. Like Anne Coomes, I am immensely grateful to those of you who contribute copy regularly and to those of you who send in surprise articles - be they poems, quizzes, whatever is of interest at the time. Like many Parish Churches readership continues its gentle decline and the day will come when it is considered something we can manage without. My own contribution as editor will come to an end sometime in the next few years. Will a successor be found? Possibly not. In the meantime, I believe passionately that our magazine plays a vital, if quiet, role in reaching out to the community and those within it who cannot, or choose not to, read it on-line. It brings the Christian Gospel into many Menston homes. If anyone has ideas of how to increase circulation please get in touch with me.

Small addendum! I met Anne Coomes many years ago on a trip to Israel. We were a very small group and Anne was delightful company. Many laughs were shared, especially prior to dinner in the evening when some of us gathered for a generous gin and tonic, usually in Anne's room!

Jan Alexander

Eco Church Group

Eco church summer workshop Saturday 20 July 10-12.

We hope to harvest some of our planting plus various other activities.



Join #30DaysWild.

One of A Rocha UK's firm beliefs is that we are more likely to nurture and defend God's creation if we spend time enjoying it. The Wildlife Trusts' 30 Days Wild challenge is a great opportunity to engage with nature as an individual, household, or with your church community throughout June. Find some wild ideas at wildlifetrusts.org/30-days-wild

Eco tips for June – Holiday highlights

- 1 ***Going for a day out*** to the countryside or beach? Take a bag in your pocket and pick up any litter you see.
- 2 ***Planning your day out or holiday journey?*** Use public transport if you can to reduce your carbon emissions. Travelling by train or ferry to Europe can be part of the adventure.
- 3 ***If you are planning to fly for your holiday*** make sure you carbon offset the carbon you generate from your flight eg with Climate Stewards www.climatestewards.org/
- 4 ***Holiday waste?*** When you are away try to take as much care to save energy, recycle, prevent food waste as you would at home.

If you would like to get involved in eco church issues, please do get in touch.

Eco church team: Marilyn, Sally, Catherine, Jeanne-Claire, Matthew and Jen

Personal Growth and Leadership Course

Over the last six months, some members of our congregation have attended a course called Personal Growth and Leadership, run by the Leeds Diocese at the Fountains Church in central Bradford. The course ran on Saturday mornings on a monthly basis.



As part of the Leeds Diocesan vision for growing confidence in both churches and individual Christians to be faithful to our calling to share the Gospel, we reflected on (in very brief summary):

- ◆ What holds us back in our own spiritual lives? Do we make enough time to read our Bibles and to speak (or listen) to God in prayer? What stops us from doing this?
- ◆ Do we feel confident about sharing our faith with others? If we don't, what is holding us back? What do we need to do to become more confident?
- ◆ How might we become more confident about taking on leadership roles in our own churches? What particular strengths do we have (or don't have) for leadership?
- ◆ Here at St John's, in what ways can we make our outreach and witness to the community even more effective?

If anyone would like to consider for themselves one or more of these questions, Roger and Marilyn Banister or Isabel Griffith would love to hear about your own reflections.

Isobel Griffiths

Worship this month

2 June The First Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: 2 Corinthians 4: 5-12; Mark 2: 23-3: 6
Reader: David Mercer

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

9 June The Second Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: 2 Corinthians 4: 13-5:1; Mark 3: 20-end
Reader: Ros Wilkinson

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

7-8pm The Den

16 June The Third Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: 2 Corinthians 5: 6-10, 14-17; Mark 4: 26-34
Reader: Colin Alexander

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

23 June The Fourth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13; Mark 4: 35-end
Reader: Pat Machin

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

30 June The Fifth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: 2 Corinthians 8: 7-end; Mark 5: 21-end
Reader: Adele Maddy

9.30am Zest

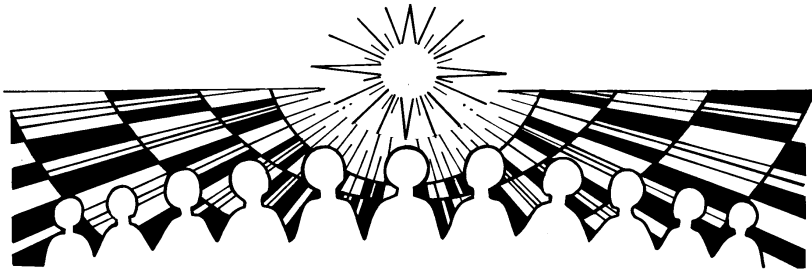
11.00am Parish Eucharist

7 July The Sixth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: 2 Corinthians 12: 2-10; Mark 6: 1-13
Reader: Geoff Druett

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist

MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

9.30am Thursdays: 6 / 13 / 20 / 27; July 4



WORSHIP NOTES

**Bradford Celebrates
Leeds @ 10**

As part of the ongoing celebrations of the 10th Anniversary of the formation of Leeds Diocese we invite you to make a mini pilgrimage from your parishes meeting up at Bradford Cathedral for a service of thanksgiving at 4pm. You are welcome to walk as much or as little as you want and to come and bring a picnic to eat with friends from around

the Episcopal Area in the Cathedral grounds before going in for the service.

I look forward to celebrating and sharing our journey so far with you all.

With my prayers and best wishes

+Toby

Interested in going in whatever way you wish to travel - let Marilyn (874220) know so we can meet up at the cathedral!

Climate Action Menston

Ladies Clothes Swap in Kirklands, Saturday 15 June

CAM are linking up with Menston Community Association and running a clothes swap. So sift through the wardrobe for the items you never wear but someone else might love! More details to follow.

Menston Heritage Group

The group is hoping to move various archive material into the room at the library shortly. Our next meeting is on Thursday 11 July at 7.30pm in Kirklands. Do come along if you are interested in getting involved. For more information, contact Marilyn on 874220.

Menston Neighbourhood Plan

Housing is the next topic under discussion for input into our Neighbourhood Plan. We will be thinking about the right type of housing for the future, the needs, the mix, sustainable buildings etc. We will be meeting on Thursday 20 June at 7.30pm in Kirklands. Do come along.

Menston Parish Council

Summer is approaching! This means that some species of solitary bees are emerging. All bees are vital for humanity and the environment; sadly, they are in decline. Why not plant some bee-friendly plants? Plants that bees will love include buddleia, alliums, lavender, catmint, snapdragons, foxgloves, campanulas, teasels.



Even if you don't have a big garden, you can plant in tubs on a balcony or in window boxes.



This month:

4 June 2.15 pm Parish Room Social afternoon with Beetle Drive. *Please note change to programme due to speaker cancellation.*

At the last meeting, which was our annual fundraising lunch, our small group of 12 attendees raised £75.50 which will be donated to the MU 'Away from it All' holiday fund. Several members were absent for various reasons, but as always we enjoyed our fellowship together in a good cause.

Leeds diocesan MU have two caravans at Primrose Valley, Filey, which offer free holidays to needy families on recommendations from branches and various professional bodies. There is also an ongoing separate fund building up the finance needed to replace the caravans when necessary in the future. So these two funds are very well supported by all our branch members.

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On Thursday 6 June at 10 am, the Annual Leeds Diocesan AGM and Council Meeting will be held at St John the Divine Church, Raistrick. The speaker will be from *Tools with a Mission* (www.twam.uk), a Christian charity that collects useable tools for refurbishment and sends them to the developing world for livelihood creation.

Members are encouraged to attend this annual meeting if they have transport available, but sadly it is more of a problem now for Bradford Area members, who in the past would travel to Bradford or Skipton for the big meetings. Fortunately, minutes are circulated afterwards to all branches to keep members informed of the proceedings.

Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon

ALL IN THE MONTH of JUNE

200 years ago, on 16 June 1824, a London vicar, Arthur Broome, and some 22 of his friends, including the MPs William Wilberforce (anti-slavery campaigner) met at Old Slaughters Coffee House to found the SPCA – the first national animal protection society in the world. By 1840 Queen Victoria had given permission for it to be called the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

100 years ago, on 8 June 1924 George Mallory, British mountaineer, disappeared on Mount Everest. His body was found in 1999.

80 years ago, on 6 June 1944 D-Day and the Normandy Landings took place.

Also 80 years ago, on 13 June 1944 Germany launched the first V-1 flying bomb ('doodlebug') attack on London. 9,521 V-1s were fired at London and south-east England during the war.

50 years ago, on 28 June 1974 chemists at the University of California, Irvine, published the first report that warned that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) could damage the Earth's ozone layer. CFCs were widely used in refrigerators, air conditioning systems and as aerosol propellants.

30 years ago, on 6 June 1994 the highest individual score in first-class cricket was achieved. Brian Lara scored 501 not out while playing for Warwickshire against Durham. It is the only score of 500 or more in first-class cricket history.

Parish Pump News Service

The D-Day Normandy Landings

Eighty years ago, on 6 June 1944, the D-Day Normandy Landings took place. More than 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy. The Battle of Normandy ended on 25 August with an Allied victory.

The question of what the *D* stood for has never been absolutely determined: some say it just stood for Day; others maintain it was Disembarkation, because it was an amphibious operation. What is sure is that there was a spiritual dimension. General Eisenhower, the commander of Operation Overlord, urged those taking part to ‘beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking’, and President Roosevelt broadcast a prayer to the nation – the United States, that is.

Before June 5 – the original date for D-Day, before bad weather forced a rethink – a massive and successful series of deceptions were put in place to make the Nazis think the invasion would come elsewhere. The Germans were certainly confused. Hitler, thinking the attack was a feint, refused to send reinforcements, and their strategy was hampered by the absence of their brilliant Commander Erwin Rommel, who was on leave.

Nevertheless, the Americans suffered over 2,000 casualties at Omaha Beach, which was the most heavily defended. Altogether it was reckoned that over 4,000 Allied troops were killed, but about 156,000 successfully stormed the beaches, and many landed behind the lines, including American paratrooper Private John Steele, who descended on to the pinnacle of the church tower in Sainte-Mère-Église, the first village to be liberated by the US Army. Lit up by searchlights, he survived by pretending to be dead, was captured and then escaped, joining the invading soldiers.

This year handmade silhouettes of almost 1,500 servicemen were transported to Normandy for an art installation, *Standing with Giants*, to mark the anniversary.

Parish Pump News Service

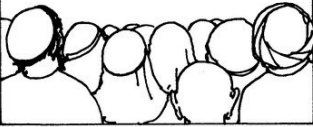
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Ex.19:3-9,20:1-21,24:7,12-18,32:1-25,34:1-9

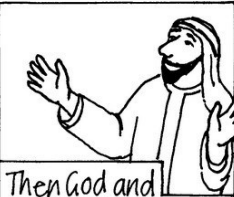
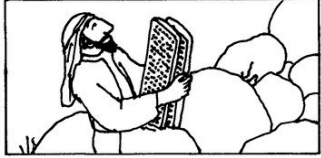
God rescued the Hebrew people from
Egypt and led them to Sinai mountain.
There He offered them a contract....

Keep My rules, and you will
be My people and I will be
your God and protect you.



We promise to do
what You tell us
and worship only You.

Moses climbed the mountain.
God gave him two stone slabs
with the contract on them.

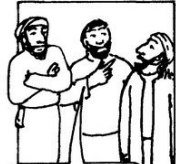


Then God and
Moses talked ... for
40 days and nights

Meanwhile...



Aaron, that Moses isn't coming back. We
can't worship something we can't see..



Make us
something we
can worship

So Aaron made a gold bull
and the people went wild.

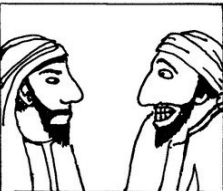


God told Moses....

Your people are already
worshipping a statue.



Moses was so angry he
smashed the contract
slabs



It's not my fault,
they made me do it.

God, please, please
forgive Your people.



So God forgave His people and gave
Moses two more contract slabs.



NOTICE BOARD

APCM ELECTION RESULTS

Churchwardens:

Hilary Feathers and
Dominic Hall

Deanery Synod

2 vacancies until May 2026

PCC: to serve for 3 years

Until APCM 2027

Roger Banister *

David Mercer

James Sheppard

Jan Woodland

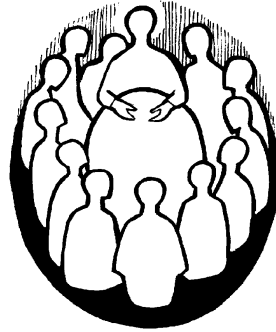
To serve for 2 years

Dorothy Slater

1 vacancy until APCM 2026

To serve for 1 year

Marion Edenborough



The Parish Office will be closed from Wednesday 29 May until Thursday 13 June. Amy will be working remotely from home on Tuesday 11 June.

ALTAR FLOWERS

June 9 Jane Pratt

June 23 Judith Knaggs



FROM THE REGISTERS

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