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St John the Divine



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## What's happening about the roof?



Only one of the five roofing companies approached felt able to tender at this time, and it transpires that, due to shortages in building materials and labour, building costs have risen approximately 30% in the past year. As a result, the tender for the complete roof replacement is considerably more than we had budgeted for at £182,000.

Our currently available funds amount to £123,482, but the PCC feel that we need to somehow make a start on building work. Delaying the project while we try to raise another £60,000 is a daunting prospect and we have been warned that building costs are likely to rise further. The PCC has therefore decided to ask the architect to prepare a specification for a phased program of work that initially deals with the most urgent repairs and postpones less urgent parts to a later date when more funds are available, even though this will probably cost more in the long run.

So, I'm afraid it is still watch this space - but the PCC is conscious of the need to respond to the generosity of the donors by progressing the project as quickly and as prudently as possible.

*Colin Alexander, Treasurer*

<b>This month</b>		
P6	A View from the Pews	P10 Memories of the choir
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P9	Parcevall Advent Retreat	P19 Cathedral Scramble!

Copy for the NOVEMBER magazine is due by  
**Sunday 17 October** 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.

## The Vicarage

### Dear Friends

The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations at St John's including celebratory services and a flower festival, coupled with confirmations conducted by the bishop, made for a busy weekend full of looking back with thanks and looking forwards with hope and expectation.

As a community we have an exciting road ahead. To build on 150 years of ministry within our village is no small thing. We find ourselves with a century and a half at our backs but who-knows how long going forwards in a changing world where everything we have inherited will be questioned, and new ways of worshipping together may come about. A very exciting time to be alive and to be praying for God's guidance for ourselves and our church.

Those who founded the church here in Menston did so inspired by the story of God's love for the world he created and their need to worship in response. Similarly today, each of us I hope, are able to say that they find connections between our own life stories and the Good News of a God who loves us and sacrificed himself for us. Even in the tough times the story of God reminds us that we are not alone and, though our intuition tells us the world shouldn't be like this, we are moving towards a glorious future where, as J.R.R. Tolkien put it, ***'everything sad [is] going to become untrue.'***

We look forwards to a future of ministry in Menston where more and more people will be able to connect their own life



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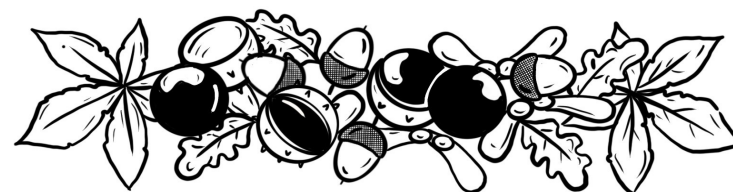
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stories to the great narrative of God and the Good News of Jesus. We pray they will find meaning, hope and life, and that their imaginations will be inspired, their intellect challenged and their lives transformed as they make Jesus their Lord and Saviour.

For this to happen, everyone must hear the story of Jesus and how it relates to our lives in 21<sup>st</sup> century Menston. There must be a whiff of the Kingdom of Heaven in our meetings, services, and the love we share together. Whilst we humbly learn more about God, we must allow God's Spirit to change the way we see the world around us and transform the way we worship. We must, in short, inhabit God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

It is this vision that makes the path ahead exciting. Those who erected our building in 1871 were inspired to build in stone a vision of heavenly worship in our village. Our challenge is to build a 21<sup>st</sup> century people who live the reality of heavenly worship in our daily lives, offering our prayers as incense and our lives as servants to God himself. In the words of C.S. Lewis, we must be going '**further up**' and '**further in**' to the dream that is heaven, and inviting others to join us.

*Steve*



## A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

Every few years as part of my job in prison, I have to submit to a security clearance check. It is an unedifying process to make sure that I haven't said or done anything untoward or met anyone unsuitable recently. You'll be pleased to hear that despite joining the congregation at St John's about three years ago, I passed this latest trial with flying colours!

The process is usually a formality – one hopes in a secure environment that unsavoury behaviour is rooted out at the earliest sign. However, even safe in the knowledge that I had done nothing wrong, I assumed the worst. I have an in-built guilt complex which usually only rears its head in the customs hall at airports. It has led me to ponder this month on the value of feeling guilty (as opposed to actually being guilty!).

To feel guilt is to have an awareness that our behaviour has a deep and lasting impact on those around us be they friends and family, colleagues or even strangers in the street. It should make us think carefully not only about our actions and their consequences but also the perception of us it creates in others. If we see a person who is grumpy or rude and dismiss that as a dominant trait then they are easy to ignore. If, however, we take a moment to consider the possible causes for that grumpiness or rudeness then we can start looking for reasons. Once we have found reasons then we can try to find ways to help. Do we need to modify our own behaviour? Do we need to draw attention to the offence being caused? Do we simply need to ask the question, 'Are you OK?'

The sermon on the ninth commandment, 'You shall not bear false witness...' struck home as it calls us to look at the whole person. One of the many things I have learned since coming to church is that the petty squabbles and clashes that form part of life are transient and we should be looking for the permanent signs that make us all children of God. Feeling guilt reminds us that we are far from perfect and that the duty is on us to reflect on who we are and project the best version of ourselves.

I am reminded every week in church that I often fall short in the task of seeing the whole person. The need to confess is constant. However, the joy that comes from unburdening and the resulting forgiveness is inspiring.

## SCRAMBLED CATHEDRALS QUIZ

Each set of letters can be rearranged to give the name of a UK cathedral.

1. ACEEHMNRST
2. ABCENRRRTUY
3. BEEGHOOPRRTU
4. DEEFFHILS
5. DDFGILORU
6. AAHPSST
7. ABDELNNU
8. CCEEHHIRST
9. ACEILLRS
10. BCENOR



*Heather Greig*

*Answers: 1 Manchester; 2 Canterbury; 3 Peterborough; 4 Sheffield; 5 Guildford; 6 St Asaph; 7 Dunblane; 8 Chichester; 9 Carlisle; 10 Brecon*

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Mark 6:17-28, Matthew 14:1-11

After Herod Antipator died, the Romans allowed his son Herod Antipas to rule Galilee and Peraea. He was hated by the Jews

Herod Antipas divorced his wife and married his brother Herod-Philip's wife, Herodias.



John the Baptist told him he had broken Jewish law by marrying his brother's wife\*



\*Lev 18:19,20:21. She was also his niece.

Herodias hated John and wanted him dead. Herod was afraid of John and wouldn't kill him but put him in prison.

Herod liked to listen to John.



Finally, Herodias got her chance.

Herod had a big party for his birthday.



(Birthday parties were a new trend from Greece.)

He invited everyone important in Galilee.



Herodias sent her daughter to dance for Herod and his guests.



(No decent girl would do this.)

They were very entertained.



I will give you anything, even half my kingdom



(Which wasn't really his to give.)

Salome asked Herodias, then said



I want John's head on a plate.

Oh, no! But I made a promise in front of everyone!

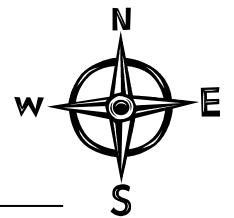


So John was killed\* and Salome was given his head. She gave it to her mother.



\*illegal without a trial

# Prayer Points



As a change this month here is a reminder of an old way to pray using our hands. It was written years ago by Cardinal Bergoglio, before he became Pope Francis. The Zest service uses it regularly as it is as relevant to adults as it is to children as each finger represents a category of people in our lives to ensure that we remember them all before God.

We start with the **thumb**, the digit closest to us. We pray for all those known to us, our family, friends near and far, neighbours, our village.

The **next finger** is the one we use to point with so this reminds us to pray for all those people who teach us, by words or actions. This includes our clergy, leaders of small groups etc as well as teachers in education settings.

The **middle finger** stands tall and we remember those who lead us. Our politicians who are making difficult decisions that affect us all, the Queen and leaders of nations across the world.

The **ring finger** is the weakest finger and needs help to stand alone so reminds us of the sick, the bereaved, the troubled and all those facing difficult times. Pray for those you know but also those who are facing adversity alone and unsupported.

Finally the **smallest finger**, the least important one and so we finally pray for ourselves. We bring to God our needs and fears but also give thanks to God for our blessings.

With thanks to Hilary Feathers for this month's Prayer Points

## NOTICE BOARD

### THANK YOU!

As a church we are grateful to Ros, Sandy, Sue and Frances for all their efforts as they step down from St John's social committee.

The social committee, with their help, have produced many amazing events and fundraisers over the years ranging from really professional Bridge Drives to the annual Christmas highlight that is the Candlelit Supper.

We are grateful for their hard work, as we look to a future where the social aspect of our church fellowship remains really important even if it may look a little different.

Thank you Ros, Sandy, Sue and Frances!

### SUMMERTIME ENDS

A reminder that the clocks go  
BACK one hour on  
*Sunday 31 October.*



### ALTAR FLOWERS

3 October	Fiona Johnson
10 October	Dorothy Slater
17 October	Elizabeth Leopold
24 October	Charmian Thomas
31 October	Jan Alexander



### Light Up St John's – Floodlight Sponsorship

15 October Always Remembered

Now that the dark winter nights have arrived 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)

*(Continued from page 16)*

Charlotte could not have dreamed that 150 years into the future, her verses would be sung by millions of people all over the world, as they responded to the Gospel invitation to come to Christ, despite sin and fear and doubts, to come *'just as I am.'*

*Parish Pump News Service*

Our next Roof Appeal fundraising event

### 'Nostalgia Night'

featuring local band *Time Warp* ~ live music  
from the 50s, 60s, 70s and later.

**Saturday 30 October - 7.30pm**  
**Kirklands Community Centre**

Tickets £12 include a pie and pea supper,  
raffle and bar from 879290 / 872433.



## The story behind the hymn . . . 'Just as I am'

Those who attended the Flower Festival will have seen the lovely arrangement by Sandra Harder celebrating the life of Charlotte Elliot. We sang Charlotte's hymn, 'Just as I am', at our 150th Celebration Service on Sunday 19 September, three days before the 150th anniversary of her death in 1871.

It is one of the most famous hymns in the world. However, it was not written by a professional but by an artist in Victorian times. Charlotte Elliott was born in Clapham in 1789. She grew up in a well to do home, and became a portrait artist and also a writer of humorous verse. All was well until Charlotte fell ill in her early 30s, and slid into a black depression. A minister, Dr Caesar Malan of Switzerland, came to visit her. Instead of sympathising, he asked her an unexpected question: did she have peace with God? Charlotte deeply resented the question and told him to mind his own business.

But after he left, his question haunted her. Did she have peace with God? She knew that she did not, that she had done some very wrong things. So she invited Dr Malan to return. She told him that she would like to become a Christian, but would have to sort out her life first.

Dr Malan again said the unexpected: 'Come just as you are.' The words were a revelation to Charlotte. She had assumed that she would have to put her life in order before she could hope to be accepted by God. Instead, she realised that Jesus wanted her just as she was - and he would take care of the sin. Charlotte became a Christian that day.

Fourteen years later, in 1836, Charlotte wrote some verses that summed up how it had been between her and Jesus that day.

***Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that thy blood was shed for me,  
And that thou bids't me come to Thee  
O lamb of God, I come!***

***Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt  
Fightings and fears, within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come!***

*(Continued on page 17)*

## 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.

Joyce Simpson is the retired Head of Humanities at Leeds Trinity University, where she established an MA programme in Literature and Spirituality. Nowadays she delights in discovering the thoughts and insights of fellow-voyagers from different walks of life.

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

## Church Choir Memories from the 1950s

In 1947, I was a ten year old from Heaton and first sang in a small church in distant Wharfedale, St John the Divine, Menston. My father, Hugh Frederic Gadsby, had just been appointed as Choirmaster [with a passion for choir training] and Organist, a position he held until 1958.

My father had held local appointments before Menston – amateur musicians moved in those days - Guiseley Parish Church [1935] and St. Margaret's, Ilkley [1939].

Such was the man who arrived in Menston in 1947. Written records of the sung services – Matins, Evensong and the Sung Eucharist - are extant and will become available to the village archive. The choir was often small in number, sometimes only the Riley family were present, luckily covering all three men's parts!

In 1949, St Johns' 1889 Binns organ was rebuilt by Henry Willis & Sons, its re-dedication taking place on 22 July. Friend George Hankin, Bradford Corporations's Head of Music, played the organ; recitals on 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> July followed. Dad played for most of the services, although Helen Paling or Pamela Wilkinson occasionally deputised.

A star day was the live broadcast by the *BBC Home & European Service* of Matins, under the theme "*Regnante Jesu Christo*". I recall getting up very early on the cold 24 September 1950 to arrive in time for a 'warm-up'. The broadcast was recorded by Mr Postlethwaite of Excel Services, Shipley. Rev. Chatterton Hammond's 15-minute resounding sermon left us a clear message!

The choir in this period gave many recitals in nearby churches, notably at Kildwick (Festival Evensong), Shipley, Brighouse & Harrogate [1952]. In March 1953, the choir sang Charles Wood's *St Mark Passion*, and recorded it, at St Wilfrid's, Lidget Green. This involved 12 Menston soloists - Eddie Twigg (Evangelist), Bert Cooper (Christus), George Parry, Stanley Riley, Michael Riley, John Riley, Leonard Sutcliffe, Larry Cooper, and boys Greetham, Jefferson, England & Dingley. A pre-Coronation "*Story of Menston*" was celebrated with fifteenth century carols on 30 May 1953.

The choir's reputation peaked with the performances of Bach's *St Matthew Passion* in 1953/54, sung at Menston and Bingley. A most adventurous enterprise for amateur musicians at the time, it involved

## VILLAGE CAMEO LUNCH

The Village Cameo Lunch is for older people who live alone and who would like to join others for a meal and conversation. We are thrilled to announce that Cameo is re-opening in October after 18 months of absence!

**Do you live alone?**

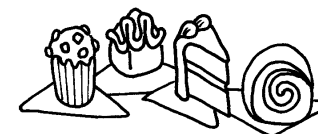
**Do you know anyone who lives alone?**

On the second Wednesday of each month we hold a simple home-made lunch - an opportunity to enjoy a meal in company. We are resuming our Cameo lunches on **Wednesday 13 October, meeting at 12 noon in Cornerstone**. The cost is £4 for a bowl of soup, bread roll, pudding and tea or coffee.

Please ring Caroline Wood on 871247 to book your place, or if you would like to join our team of helpers.

We look forward to seeing you all again in October!

## Come And Meet Each Other



## IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER ...

**150 years ago**, from 8-10 October 1871, the Great Chicago Fire took place. A fire in a barn quickly spread, following a long period of hot, dry weather. About 300 people were killed, over three square miles of the city destroyed, and around 100,000 people were made homeless. Also at this time the Peshtigo Fire of Wisconsin burned 1,200,000 acres and killed up to 2,500 people – the deadliest wildfire in US history.

**75 years ago**, on 1 October 1946 the International War Crimes Tribunal in Nuremberg ended. Twelve Nazi leaders were sentenced to death for war crimes committed during WWII. Ten of them were hanged on 16 October. Hermann Goering committed suicide the night before he was to be hanged.

**70 years ago**, the Snowdonia National Park and Dartmoor National Park were established.

**Also 70 years ago**, zebra crossings were introduced in the UK. The first one was in Slough, Berks. The crossings were the brainchild of Yorkshireman and traffic engineer George 'Dr Zebra' Charlesworth, a physicist who had worked on the Barnes Wallis-designed bouncing bomb during the war. His zebra crossings were certainly responsible for saving many lives.

**50 years ago**, on 1 October 1971 the first CT scan was performed on a patient at Atkinson Morley Hospital in Wimbledon.

**25 years ago**, on 18 October 1996 the journal Science published the first study that showed a causal link between a toxin found in tobacco smoke and the development of lung cancer.

**20 years ago**, on 7 October 2001, the first US and British forces arrived in Afghanistan to launch a massive military offensive following the 9/11 terrorist attack.

*Parish Pump News Service*



string, woodwind and spinet continuo players, an augmented choir with in-house soloists and reflected my father's love of the work transmitted to him whilst in Oxford. It was the pinnacle of his ambitions

Dad composed a *Short Communion Service* which was performed there - a recent recording exists. The Royal School of Church Music later awarded him a special medal (only 2 in the country) at the Royal Albert Hall, London. He became closely tied to the Bradford, then Wakefield, Organists Associations and, in retirement, devoted himself to recording services of the annual Edington Festival, in Wiltshire.

I enjoyed my long journeys to Menston. On many occasions, when dad, working in the bank at Shipley, went direct to Menston, I caught two buses from Heaton, latterly with my treble-singing younger brother, Richard. Sammy Ledgard provided the bus – usually a wartime Daimler ex-London Transport (Hollins Hill downhill was a bone-shaking experience!), I coveted the red metal plate at the village terminus, erected by B&B Tours in the 1930s and retained by Ledgard! More importantly, I tasted my first beer at the *Menston Arm*”, no doubt encouraged by Matthew England!

I'm grateful to Revd Andrew Howorth for inviting me to recall those happy days; I send my best wishes for your 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

*Ted Gadsby*

# Worship this month

**3 Oct**    **The Eighteenth Sunday after TRINITY**  
**Readings: 1 Peter 2; Mark 10: 2-16**  
*Reader: Jan Alexander*

9.30am    Zest  
11.00am    Parish Eucharist

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**10 Oct**    **The Nineteenth Sunday after TRINITY**  
**Readings: 1 Peter 3; Mark 10: 17-31**  
*Reader: David Machin*

9.30am    Zest  
11.00am    Parish Eucharist

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**17 Oct**    **The Twentieth Sunday after TRINITY**  
**Readings: 1 Peter 4; Mark 10: 35-45**  
*Reader: Elizabeth Leopold*

9.30am    Zest  
11.00am    Parish Eucharist

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**24 Oct**    **The Twentyfirst Sunday after TRINITY**  
**Readings: 1 Peter 5; Mark 10: 36-end**  
*Reader: Dorothy Slater*

9.30am    Zest  
11.00am    Parish Eucharist

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**31 Oct**    **The Last Sunday after TRINITY**  
**Readings: Psalm 62: 5-end; Mark 1: 14-20**  
*Reader: Dominic Hall*

9.30am    Zest  
11.00am    Parish Eucharist

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

9.30am    Zest  
11.00am    Parish Eucharist

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## MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*9.30am    Thursdays: October 7 / 14 / 21 / 28*

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### Introducing Doug Rice-Bowen

I am Doug and I have the great privilege to be the ordinand attached to St John's Church. That means I am training to be a priest under the guidance of the team. I will be working in the parish, visiting, leading worship and help to grow the wonderful Christian community here in Menston.

Along with my work here in Menston I will be studying with St Hild's College, a theology college based in Mirfield.

I began my Christian journey at my family church, St Margaret's, Great Barr and went from there to become a chorister at Ely Cathedral. I originally studied at Cardiff university for a Bachelor of

Divinity but continued my career in music as a professional opera singer. More recently I have taught Religious Education in schools in London and Yorkshire.

I was lucky enough to continue my singing as a choral lay vicar at St Paul's cathedral during my teaching. Currently I sing with the choir at Bradford cathedral.

I am married to Jane and have twins who keep me on my toes. When I am not working you will probably find me following my other passions of cricket, rugby and Brighton and Hove Albion.

My family and I moved up to Yorkshire around 5 years ago back to Jane's roots. We love living up here and very much look forward to getting stuck into the community in Menston.'