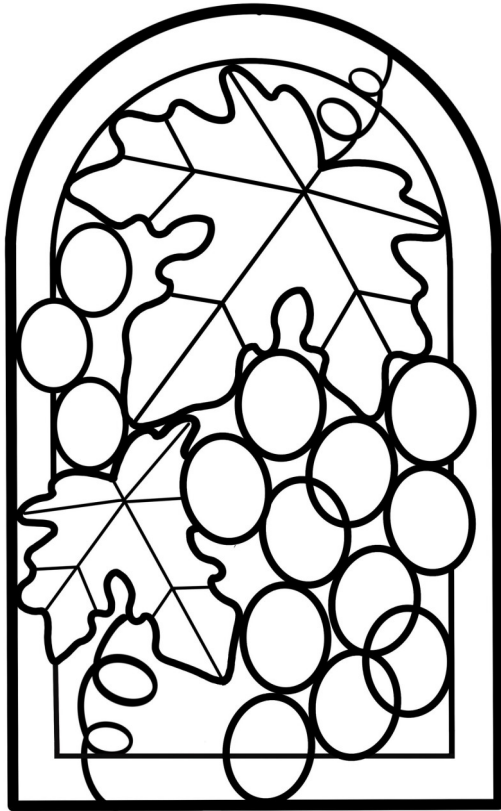


2024

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St John the Divine



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Please visit our website for more information

Contact Kathryn Lindsay BSc(Hons)

Andrew Lindsay BSc(Hons)

Phone 01943 872716

Email info@thefootpeople.co.uk

Website www.thefootpeople.co.uk

ALL HALLOW'S EVE - 31 October

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

On the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain ('Summer's End'). The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. But Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark powers.

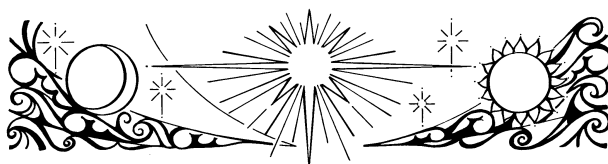
Christianity arrived and began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1 November – All Saints' Day – was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and

Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

In the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed witches rode about on broomsticks.

Today, Christians turn to prayer to overcome the powers of darkness. But the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and those who have gone before us.

Parish Pump News Service



Copy for the NOVEMBER magazine is due by **Sunday 13 October** Please email copy to both editor and Parish Office (office@stjohnmenston.org.uk) or leave copy for typing with the office.

The Vicarage

Friends

I am writing this in my first week as Vicar, early September, and I am sat in my cosy jumper with the electric heater on - autumn is here!

Autumn is the season of the Harvest. Harvest has long been celebrated by the Church, and when our lives were simpler and more obviously dependent on the soil beneath our feet, the success or failure of the local harvest would have been the difference between life and death. A good Harvest was a cause to give thanks indeed!

Modern technology and trade have made our connection with the land and the harvest seem more tenuous. As a consequence, we can forget our human dependency on the crops of the field. We are insulated from the ups and downs of the harvest; drought and locust affect us little.

As a consequence, we can forget to be thankful, and even worse we can forget we are dependent.

Human beings cannot survive without food and drink. We are dependent on a source of sustenance. Yet, in our plenty we can forget our vulnerability.

We don't like to think about being dependent on anything. We like to pretend we don't need anything. That is much more comfortable. Indeed, our deep-self knows too well we are vulnerable, and spends a lot of energy in covering this up. But whilst we are human, we are **NOT** alone, and we are provided for. Not only materially, physically and emotionally through our support of one another, but absolutely through Jesus Christ.

In his life, death and resurrection, Jesus revealed and proved God's infinite love and power. There is nothing and no-one beyond his desire and ability to redeem. What a gift Jesus is! A gift we can receive with thanks, if only we acknowledge our need of Him.

Giving thanks is an outworking of faith. Because we can only give

thanks if we acknowledge our need, our dependence and that we have received something of value. Have you?

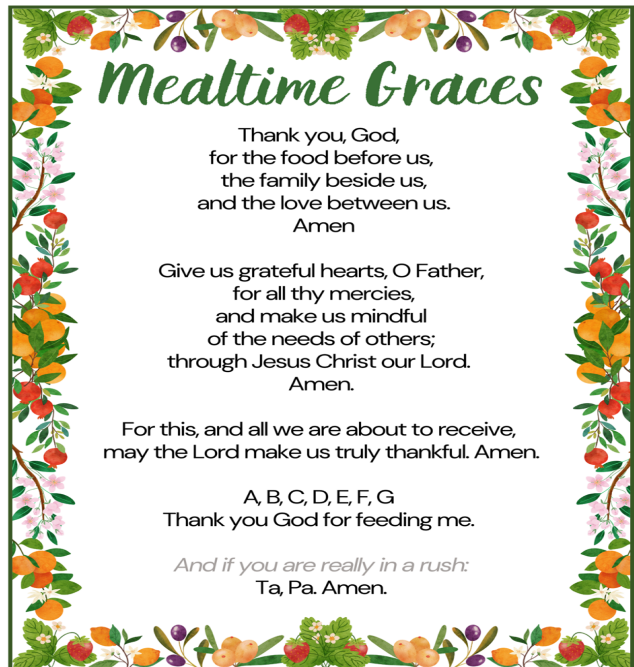
This autumn, let's remember to count our blessings, and give thanks. Not begrudgingly, not out of guilt, nor a sense of unworthiness, but joyfully, as we take stock and see what a good God we have and how well he has provided for us.

If you are facing this season with worries about eating, heating or loneliness (or indeed anything else), do speak to trusted friend at church, you are not alone.

I don't know if you say grace before you eat on a regular basis. We do at our house when we have tea around the table (usually with a mouthful of food, as we've already tucked in!) but here are some graces you might like to use this season as a discipline of giving thanks for things we depend on and have mercifully received. I am sure it will lead to peace, hope and joy.

Blessings to you all.

Jo



A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

The other week I was Warden in church. Before Zest began, I had a look at the visitors' book. I was quite amazed that in August we have had visitors from as far afield as South Africa and India. As I am writing this I am preparing for a trip to Canada.

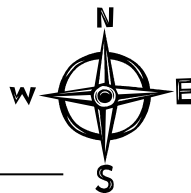
South Africa, India, Canada. Now, I am not suggesting that Menston puts in a bid to host the Commonwealth Games! I think, however, that this does illustrate the vast distances of the globe but also through the global reach of Christianity, the nearness of our connected faith. In our intercessions every week we pray for the troubled parts of the world. At the moment these include Ukraine and Israel and Gaza. They would have been Bosnia, Northern Ireland or Tibet in decades past.

A few years ago, there was an advert for Save The Children which told of a year in the life of a British girl as the country descends into civil war and she and her family have to flee. It is a tough, ninety second watch but well worth searching out if you have access to You Tube. The tagline, 'Just because it isn't happening here doesn't mean it isn't happening' reminds us that whilst we can be thankful we live in a largely peaceful country, we should not be looking the other way when there are parts of the world where people like you and me are going through horrible times.

How often do we stop and really consider the impact of war on the lives of others? I often imagine that the soldiers and the downtrodden citizens we see on the news were once teachers, nurses, office workers, school children just getting on with their daily lives – working, paying bills, planning holidays, worshipping or just spending times in their own homes. I further imagine that they would dearly like the drudgery of daily life – our lives – to be their lives once again.

What can we do to help? I think the parable of the Good Samaritan is very helpful. The key, according to Jesus, is to show mercy to those in need of our help. The Samaritan, being close by, was able to offer practical and financial help. The kindness he showed was exemplary. Of course, we are not going to put ourselves in a difficult position but the practical ways we can help – offering shelter, food, clothes are a reminder that the distances might be far but, these 'other people' are still our neighbours.

Prayer Points



'The age of the telescope was also the age of the microscope. There are as many worlds of wonder which are too minute for our vision as there are too great for our understanding' F.B.Meyer

There is so much wonder to be found in nature, and in the uniqueness of every human being that ever existed, but we are often unaware of it. Occasionally, something happens which gives us a jolt. When I woke up from my recent operation, I found myself alone in a recovery ward. On the opposite side of the room were four windows, each one framing a section of the landscape outside; distant hills; fields surrounded by dry stone walls; rows of trees, and the red tiled roof of a house.

I lay there for hours, mesmerised by the subtle changes taking place outside. I was rewarded with the most beautiful sunset I have ever seen, the red glow slowly creeping downwards from one window to the next. As the sun disappeared, the moon and stars became visible, and the birds settled down in the trees. I was filled with awe, and deep peace.

May we all look for the wonder in each other, and see the small and hidden details of another's needs.

Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the Prince of Peace to you
and all you love, this day and always.

Iona Blessing

With thanks to Janette Woodland for this month's Prayer Points

ECO CHURCH GROUP

The Eco church group has had a break over the summer and will hope to meet with Revd Jo to gain her thoughts on our eco work going forward.



Eco tips – Outside

Contribute to wildlife conservation:

- ◆ Clean bird feeders to prevent diseases spreading to winter migrants.
- ◆ Install a nest box well before breeding season to provide a cosy retreat for small birds during cold winter nights.

Inside

- ◆ Make sure you close your curtains when it gets dark to stop heat escaping.
- ◆ Get draft proofing to stop losing heat. See www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/energy-saving-quick-wins
- ◆ Make sure your hot water tank is insulated with a thick jacket. It will save lots of money and reduce your carbon emissions.
- ◆ Check whether you can add more loft insulation? It's one of the cheapest and easiest ways to save energy.

If you would like to get involved with the group, please get in touch with Catherine, Sally, Jen or Marilyn.

Greenbelt 2024

Once again, Roger and I made the journey to Boughton House, near Kettering for the annual Greenbelt Arts Festival. We go for the talks and discussions rather than music, drama or art, and, which, once again, were really interesting. There is so much on offer that it is really difficult to choose what to go to especially when there is a clash. Thankfully, talks are recorded and you can purchase them to listen at home or use in small groups.

This year, we heard from people whose families are in Gaza; from a war correspondent in Ukraine; Michael Mansfield KC on his book *the Power of People's Passion* -their fight for justice. We went to panel discussions on Criminal (In)justice 101; and another 'Greening our Money' about moving our accounts from the Big Five who continue to lend to the companies investing in fossil fuels. The economist Kate Raworth, who wrote *Doughnut Economics*, led a hugely entertaining session on how we cannot continue to grow, as in GDP, as the earth cannot sustain it. She posed the question, *What on our planet continues to grow and grow?* Cancer cells and microbes but not people or animals ie exponential growth as compared to logistic growth.

In contrast to economics, Revd Kate Bottley was interviewed by Cole Moreton about her life, joining the C of E, becoming a priest and then a broadcaster. Lots of laughs but despite lots of issues with the C of E she wants to be part of the change.

The communion service on Sunday morning focussed on the situation in Israel/Gaza with powerful new words written to the carol *O little Town of Bethlehem*.

If you are interested in going next year at August Bank holiday, tickets are now on sale. Camping is included in the price but not everyone camps - we don't! There are places to stay locally. Or you can opt for pre-pitched tents. Accessibility and inclusion are a strong feature of the festival and there is a wide range of activities for children and young people.

If you want to know more, have a chat with Marilyn or Roger.

Saturday 12 October, 7-9pm

Music in the air

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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

Tickets from the Parish Office:

email office@stjohnmenston.org.uk

**text 07440289248, or leave
a message at 01943 872433**

In aid of church funds

Do join us for another concert of music making featuring all ages and a wide range of instruments.

If you are able to help serve refreshments - tea, coffee and/or make cakes, biscuits etc, that would be great. Please let me know, Marilyn on 874220.

STAY&PLAY

Stay&Play is the playgroup that meet in the Parish Room on Friday mornings. This year, with the backing of the St John's PCC, the group has become formally associated with the church and it's community outreach.

We continue to be an open, friendly and safe space and welcome people of all faiths and none. We put out toys, a craft and snacks for the children, with singing, dancing and bubbles at the end of the session. It is lovely to welcome so many families into our church on a weekly basis.

If you are a mother, father, grandparent or carer for a young person, or know someone who is, we would love to welcome you to Stay&Play during term time on Fridays at 9:30am in the Parish Room.

If you'd be interested in volunteering, either interacting with children and their grown ups, serving tea and coffee in the kitchen or helping to set up/tidy away, or if you'd like any more information, please reach me at jrsheppard9@gmail.com or ask for me at Zest.

Please keep the group, those that we serve, and the volunteers that give up their time in your prayers.

Thank you, *Jen Sheppard*.



Worship this month

6 Oct The Nineteenth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Hebrews 1: 1-4; 2: 5-12; Mark 10: 2-16
Reader: *Jenny Steele*

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist

13 Oct The Twentieth Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Hebrews 4: 12-end; Mark 10: 17-31
Reader: *David Mercer*

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist
7-8pm The Den

20 Oct The Twenty-First Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Hebrews 5: 1-10; Mark 10: 35-45
Reader: *Ros Wilkinson*

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist

27 Oct The Last Sunday after TRINITY
Readings: Hebrews 7: 23-end; Mark 10: 46-end
Reader: *Colin Alexander*

9.30am Zest
11.00am Parish Eucharist
4.30pm ? *All Souls service*



MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

9.30am *Thursdays: 3 / 10 / 17 / 24 / 31 October*

3 Nov ALL SAINTS / ALL SOULS

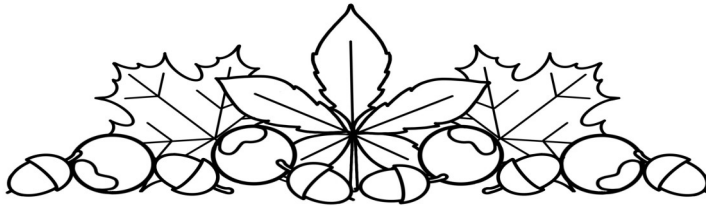
Readings: Revelation 21: 1-6a; John 11: 32-44

Reader: Pat Machin

9.30am Zest

11.00am Parish Eucharist

4.30pm ? All Souls service

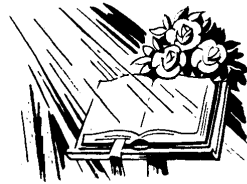


WORSHIP NOTES

ALL SOULS SERVICE

Remembering together those we love. This date is not yet confirmed but will be either Sunday 27 October or Sunday 3 November at 4.30pm. Please see October Parish Notes for details.

Names of all whose funerals have been held at St John's in the last two years will automatically be read out during the service, but if anyone would like to add a name please email it to



office@stjohnmenston.org.uk,
leave a message at 01943 872433 or fill in the form at the back of the church.
Names must be given by Tuesday 22 October - any names given after this date may be at risk of not being read out.

This month:

1 October 2.15pm 'The Street Children of Nepal'
A Talk and Powerpoint display by Ms Diane Bell

At our last meeting on 3 September we welcomed members from our new link branch of Upper Cumberworth, near Holmfirth. We enjoyed lunch together in the Parish Room, then went into church for a short service led by Sallie Finch. The theme of the service was '*Mothers' Union – a Global Family*' and here follow two of the prayers which were included:-

We pray for healing for those who are broken.
Order where there is chaos. Protection for the
vulnerable. Enterprise for all. We pray for the
world, for health of body, mind and spirit. Open
hearted attitudes. Passion for justice and mercy.
Expectations and visions fulfilled.

*We pray that the God of all hope will give us the
faith and courage to live lives that will release hope.
Amen.*

Open our eyes. Lord, to the significance of
relationship with people world wide, whether
known to us or not. Strengthen our commitment to
those with whom we share our humanity, all made
in the image of God. Soften our hearts to respond

when brothers and sisters in other lands or circumstances cry out for help.

In gratitude and love we reach out to our global family. Amen.

The day had turned out beautifully warm and sunny, and whilst our visitors were admiring the lovely view from our church's main door before departing from Menston, Janet Kitching kindly took a photograph of our group for inclusion in our church magazine and our branch records. A really lovely time had been had by all.

Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon



COMMUNITY NEWS

Climate Action Menston

In September, we were joined by the Sustainability Project Officer for Bradford, who as well as setting out her role, was keen to hear what we have been doing since we set up in 2019.

Our working group for Travel and Transport issues, continues to meet regularly and is looking at how to encourage more active travel. Do, come along on Tuesday 15 October at 7.30pm in Kirklands for the next meeting.

Our next general meeting is on Wednesday 20 November at 7.30pm, also in Kirklands. All are welcome .

Our website is <https://climateactionmenston.org.uk/> or contact Marilyn on 874220.



Menston Heritage Group

The Heritage room in the library is now home to various documents and material that need cataloguing. We are researching the best way to do this by visiting other collections locally. There is a wealth of expertise out there to draw on.

Work goes on to devise the Heritage Trail for Menston too.. Our next meeting is on Monday 30 September at 7.30pm in Kirklands.

Do come along if you are interested in getting involved. For more information, contact Marilyn on 874220.

QUIZ NIGHT



- **with supper** -
plus bar & raffle

Come along for a fun night of quizzing
to raise money for church funds

Friday 1 November, 6.30pm
St John's, Menston
Parish Room

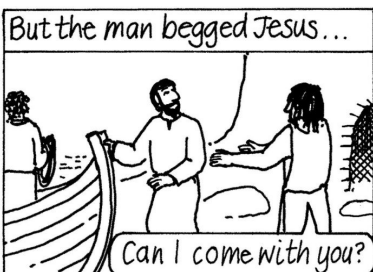
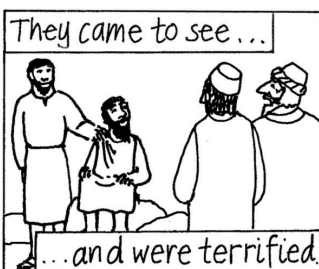
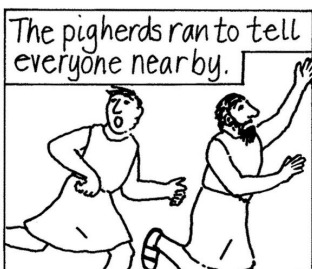
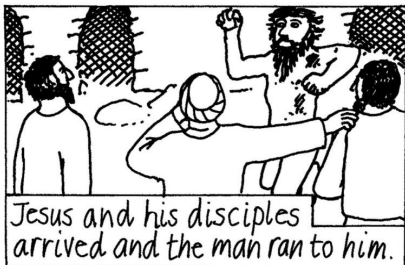
£12 per person including hot supper
See Sue & Peter Wilbraham for tickets

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mk 5:1-17, Lk 8:26-39, Mt 8:28-34

In Gerasa was a man filled with demons
He tore off any clothes or chains put
on him, and he lived in the graveyard.



NOTICE BOARD

SUMMERTIME ENDS

A reminder that the clocks go **BACK** one hour on

Sunday 27 October.



ALTAR FLOWERS

13 October Elizabeth Leopold

20 October Dorothy Slater

27 October Charmian Thomas



Light Up St John's – Floodlight Sponsorship

15 October For my husband, remembered with love every day.



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Miscellaneous observations:

The secret to a clean kitchen is simple.

Don't cook. Ever.

Microchips: What's left at the bottom of the bag.



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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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