2024

MENSTON
PARISH CHURCH
St John the Divine

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Remembrance Sunday
10 November

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Messages may be left on the answering machine outside these hours.

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Parish Notes	Parish Office by 10am Wednesday	872433

Produced and printed by Menston Parish Church

If you would like to subscribe to the Magazine regularly please contact the Parish Office (872433) to arrange delivery.

November, the month of Remembrance

Especially heart-rending this year. Throughout the world, millions of people's lives are being turned upside down, with no hope of peace and security in sight. We remember the victims of many natural disasters this year; from hurricanes, typhoons and disastrous floods, to wildfires and extreme drought.

	This month	P10/11 Christmas is coming!
P6	A View from the Pews	P14 PCC news
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From the Editor:

I am conscious that Dominic's article on page 6 might upset some people. As editor, I greatly value Dominic's contributions covering many aspects of life and have given his latest article considerable thought. This month he writes of the suicide of one of his pupils. I feel it is written from a caring viewpoint, encouraging us to think of this traumatic event in a sensitive way. I hope you agree.

Thank you for your article Dominic which also reminds us that to be a Christian is not always 'comfortable'. He promises something more light-hearted for next month!

Jan Alexander

Copy for the <u>double</u> December/January magazine is due by **Sunday 17 November**. Please email copy to BOTH editor and Parish Office (office@stjohnmenston.org.uk) or leave copy with the office.

The Vicarage

Friends,

This month we enter a season of Remembrance. Remembrance Sunday is the 10 November and at 10.45am I will be leading a community service down at Kirklands, please do attend.

When we hear the news from across the world, and even within our own shores, of how violence still reigns in people's lives we would be forgiven for thinking that we have indeed forgotten.

Remembering is a practice, a discipline even – and it's one that we will commit to as we declare 'we will remember them'. But it is a practice that I would argue does not come naturally to us in our society. We struggle especially to remember our failings and our hurts, at an individual and community level. Remembering can be painful, and remembering invites the hard work of reflecting on how we will live now, in light of the past. In other words, remembering involves slowing down - again, something that our society is not always good at. And yet, if we are to pursue change as we look forward, seeking a world that embraces peace and seeking to be a people of peace-makers, we need to embrace the practice of looking back. Reflecting and learning from history, but also taking up the call to remember what God has done and is doing in the world. Remembrance Sunday will be an opportunity to do just that, and so I invite you to join us along with the uniformed organisations to worship, remember and pray forwards in hope.

We will also be doing a different kind of remembering together on Sunday 10 November 4pm (3.15pm for refreshments beforehand), at our annual Remembering Together Service (All Souls) - remembering those we have loved, and who we have

lost. Something that is more comfortable when we gather together in solidarity and support. So again, can I invite you to join us to remember your loved ones, and to know the peace and presence of God with us.

As we look forward to the festive season, knowing that this can be a difficult time of year for many, we will be holding a Longest Night Service on Thursday 19 December at 7pm. It is a reflective Christmas service with space to hear the hope of Christmas whilst accepting the difficult realities of life - knowing our Saviour was no stranger to our suffering, as we hear, even in the story his birth.

If this coming season is difficult for you for any reason, I invite you to dwell on the truth that God is working all things for good and will redeem all things, even death – this He showed and promised through Jesus Christ.

If it's not good, God's not finished with it yet. Hold on to that hope.

We will also have our usual Christmas Services this December and lots of opportunity for joy and delight – please see pages 10/11 for details.

So, I do hope to see you over the coming months, whether to cry or pray or to sing your favourite carol, you are so welcome at St John's this season. We are here for each other.

Blessings to you all,

Jo

A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

Trigger warning - this article contains references to suicide.

I am writing this article at the end of the worst week of my professional life. As some of you will know, I work as a teacher in a prison. My job entails teaching English to foreign national prisoners. Just a couple of days prior to writing this piece, one of my learners failed to attend my class. This is not terribly unusual as there are visits, healthcare appointments, court appearances and such like.

What was unusual was that one of our pastoral care officers appeared at my classroom door and asked if he could return the missing chap's cellmate to the wing for a cell move. He told me that my absent learner had attempted to take his life and had been rushed to hospital, but the cell had to be closed pending investigation. I said a silent prayer, dealt with the officer and carried on with my lesson. The officer returned twenty minutes later to give me the grimmest of updates.

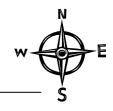
I am sure you can imagine the extraordinary mental pressures that play on people in prison. The removal from society, the threats of bullying or violence, the stress caused by upcoming court appearances. Add to that having to cope in a place where you do not speak the language, and these pressures can become unbearable.

What drives someone to see suicide as their only option is unique to that individual and often incomprehensible to the rest of us. During the pandemic, many spoke of feeling lost, lonely and abandoned as the lockdown stretched on through 2020 and into 2021. Concerted efforts were made to keep people engaged and in touch – how many of us became experts with Zoom, Skype and WhatsApp?

Talking to someone is, we know, a great way of relieving worry and finding a clear path to a better future. When I had a spot of therapy a few years ago, my counsellor said her job was not to find the solution, I had it all the time. Her job was to help me find and access the solution. It is often considered 'woke' to talk about mental health issues but if we do not find a way to verbalise our concerns then they build up to a crisis point. It is not always easy to see the problems others are going through. To paraphrase Robin Williams, 'People don't fake mental illness; they fake being well.' Therein lies the problem.

I hope that whatever pressures you might face, you are able to talk them through with a loved one. It could save your life.

Prayer Points



November- the leaves have fallen; the temperatures have dropped and the days are darkening. Golden Autumn has passed and the year is near its close.

THIS IS THE SEASON OF REMEMBRANCE

NOVEMBER 1st - All Saints Day.

We remember the martyrs and saints not named throughout the year.

• NOVEMBER 2nd - All Souls Day

We remember those we have loved and have gone to God.

Goodness is stronger than evil; Love is stronger than hate; Light is stronger than darkness; Life is stronger than death; Victory is ours through Him who loved us. *Desmond Tutu*

• NOVEMBER 10th - Remembrance Sunday.

We remember the contribution of British and Commonwealth Service men and women who gave their lives in two world wars and those who have died and are still dying in areas of conflict around the world.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them. *Laurence Binyon*

• NOVEMBER 24th - The Feast of Christ the King.

We remember that Christ is King of all creation, the one who overcame death to save us all.

Almighty, everliving God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, King of the universe, grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

With thanks to Kathy Roberts for this month's Prayer Points

ECO CHURCH GROUP

Christmas Jumpers

Do you have a Christmas jumper or jumpers in your cupboard that you no longer need/want but are still in good condition for someone else to use?



If so, please donate to our Christmas Jumper swap that will take place at the Lights Switch on at Kirklands on Saturday 7 December. Collection box available shortly and all sizes welcome. We want to increase the use of Christmas jumpers before they are recycled or sent to landfill so if you want a new look for your Christmas party this year, come along on the 7th and find a new (to you) jumper!

Eco tips

- Check you know what can be recycled in your area. If you're not sure check the council website.
- Set up simple systems in your home to make it easy to recycle. Where do you need a paper and card recycling bin, what about a compost bucket?
- All your plastic bottles can be recycled, from mouthwash to salad dressing – so put them all in your recycling bin! In most boroughs, you can recycle all your plastic bottles, tubs and pots, and their tops and lids too.
- Be pedantic about your recycling! Think about every item you put in the bin; should it go to landfill? Loo rolls come on card tubes, sweets come in foil or paper wrappers, apple cores can be composted and most packaging can be recycled now.

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

Everyone is welcome at our

Remembering Together Service

Sunday 10 November, 4pm at St John's, Menston Refreshments from 3.15pm in the Parish Room



An opportunity to remember those we've lost, and to pray for ourselves and the world carrying grief

Remembering everyone we love



Sunday 8th December - 9.30am & 11am Gift Services



Services of worship and thanksgiving during which we collect gifts for families in Leeds and Bradford who need our support.



Saturday 14th December - 2pm Zest Christmas Workshop

Join us at St John's for Christmas crafting and an informal family service. Christmas fun for all ages!





Thursday 19th December - 7pm The Longest Night

A reflective Christmas service for all who find this time of year difficult.



Sunday 22nd December - 4pm Carols by Candlelight

Sing classic Christmas carols and listen to the Christmas story by candlelight.



Christmas Eve - 4pm Crib Service

Come along and hear about the wonder of the first-ever Christmas! Why not come dressed as your favourite nativity character? Great for all the family.





Christmas Eve - 11.30pm Midnight Communion

Join us for a traditional Midnight Communion as we enter Christmas Day.





Bring your guests and join us as we celebrate the joy and hope of Christmas!











Worship this month

3 Nov	ALL SAINTS Readings: Revelation 21: 1-6a; John 11: 32-44 Reader: Pat Machin
9.30am 11.00am	Zest Parish Eucharist
10 Nov	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
9.30am 10.45am 4.00pm	Zest Joint Service a Kirklands Remembering Together - see page 9
17 Nov	The Second Sunday before ADVENT Readings: Hebrews 10: 11-14, 19-25; Mark 13: 1-8 Reader: Adele Maddy
0.000111	Zest Parish Eucharist
24 Nov	CHRIST THE KING Readings: Revelation 1: 4b-8; John 18: 33-37 Reader: Geoff Druett
9.30am 11.00am	Zest Parish Eucharist
1 Dec	ADVENT SUNDAY Readings: Jeremiah 33: 14-16; Luke 21: 25-36 Reader: Glenys Prince
9.30am 11.00am	Zest Parish Eucharist

MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

9.30am Thursdays: 7 / 14 / 21 / 28 November

UNKNOWN SOLDIER 1914 - 1918

Who were you young man lying there? Were you dark or were you fair? Father, Husband, Son, Brother? Or some young girl's distant lover?

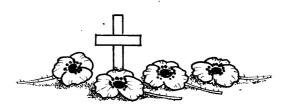
Would you have been a scholar? Or worked on factory floor? And did you think the world was yours, Before you were no more?

Perhaps you were a country lad, Or came from smoky town, Never dreaming of the far-off land, Where you were so gunned down.

And so I stand in your Flanders fields, Sweet youth of yesteryear, And ponder on the shame of war, And shed a silent tear.

Judith A Knaggs

'Awakening Spirit' An Anthology of Poetry. Published by Dogma Publications. ('Unknown Soldier' copyright Judith A Knaggs).



PCC Notes ~ Sally Smith

The PCC met in church on Monday 23 September.

- We started the meeting with a biblical reflection and prayer.
- We discussed the policies required to complete the charity commission return.
 The wardens drive has most of the policies required These policies are reviewed regularly. All DBS checks are enhanced and up to date.
- The Treasurer, Iain Johnson, gave a finance report. The over spend amount for the year so far as stated in August 2024 was £6,851.30. This has now reduced to £3,834.36. The reduction is a result of the decision to pay less of the Parish Share request.
- Jo and Iain are going to meet to consider how to look at the whole financial picture of the parish. They will bring their findings to the next PCC meeting.
- Jo is to meet with the Generous Church group to look at how to take forward the priorities they identified, which includes a donation station and how we share our stories.
- Hilary provided an update on the churchyard. The faculty

for repairs to headstones has been granted. Grass cutting is expected to begin in April 2025. We can then assess what extra help maybe needed from our own volunteers. The Parish Council has provided the funds to allow the grass to be given a final cut before the winter.

- Repairs to the sloping path are needed. Hilary will get quotes and consider a grant application to the Parish Council or the Diocese.
- There will be a leaf clearing and maintenance day on Saturday 16 November from 10am to 1pm.
- It was decided that the church can no longer offer blister pack recycling.
- The eco group are going to have a Christmas jumper swap stall at the village Christmas light switch on.
- We discussed Worship service dates between now and Christmas.
- We discussed upcoming social events including the quiz on the 1 November and Fairfax singers concert on the 13 December.

The meeting ended with prayer.



This month:

5 November 2.15pm 'Teaching in the Brazilian Jungle' Talk by Mrs Gill Peterson

TO CLASSIC CN 1

The Street Children of Nepal

Diane Bell, our speaker in October, first travelled to Nepal on a year's unpaid leave from her job as a fostering and adoption officer with Leeds Social Services, in 2001. She felt her God given mission was to set up a training scheme for people on the ground to source, train and provide continuing support for families to foster and nurture highly damaged children, both physically and emotionally, living by begging on the streets of Nepal.

Her book 'Children of the Himalayas' details this journey over the following twenty years, a journey into a completely different culture and often harsh regime. It required an ever increasing reliance on both God's provision and His timing to provide the right people and infrastructure to set up the scheme to enable the fostering, nurturing and love for these children to Western standards.

It now runs as the charity WIN Nepal. Should you like a copy of her book telling of this amazing journey, the friendships and colleagues found enabling it to progress, and the stories of some of the street children, please contact Sallie Finch (875073).

Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon

COMMUNITY NEWS

Climate Action Menston

In September, we heard from the Sustainability Project Officer for Bradford Council: part of the team who are working on the Climate Action plan for the district and aiming to be net zero by 2038. It was interesting to hear that her role is funded by the Clean Air Zone in Bradford and that air quality has improved markedly since the zone was introduced.

The areas they will be focussing on are land and nature; a sustainable economy; warm and comfortable buildings; travel and transport; and biodiversity.

Our working group for Travel and Transport issues, continues to meet regularly and is working with Otley 2030 and Climate Action Ilkley on how we can create an active travel plan for the Wharfe Valley.

Our next meeting will be a 'Green Drinks' get together at the Malt Shovel. Please check website for the date and time. All are welcome. Our website is https://climateactionmenston.org.uk/ or contact Marilyn on 874220.



Menston Heritage Group

Members of the Group recently visited the Saltaire Collection and gained lots of useful information about how to arrange a collection and make it available to others. So work proceeds and thanks to everyone who is getting involved with this.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 12 November at 7.30pm in Kirklands. Do come along if you are interested and can give some time to this project. For more information, contact Marilyn on 874220.



FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER - 7PM

A Christmas Concert



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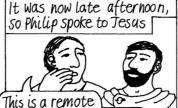
It can be read in the Bible in Mt.14:13-21, Mk6:30-44, Lk9:10-17, Jn6:1-15

A short story from the Bible

Tesus and his disciples went by boat to a quiet place to have some time alone, but the crowds noticed, and followed them.

Jesus felt sorry for them so he taught and healed them.





place. Send them away















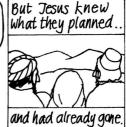




Jesus sent the disciples off in the boat and stayed to dismiss the crowd.







NOTICE BOARD

Music in the Air Concert

Many thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to this concert - providing music, food, set up, as well as attending on a cold October evening. About 55 people attended and it raised about £350 for church funds and was a very enjoyable evening.

LEAF CLEARANCE There is

a churchyard leaf sweep session set for *Saturday 16 November from 9.30am - 1pm*. If you are able to help for any amount of time it would be greatly appreciated.



FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY MATRIMONY

We extend our congratulations to:

2 November

Andrew & Fay Walsh.

ALTAR FLOWERS

3 November Jan Alexander

10 November Jan Alexander / Judith Knaggs

Please note that there will be no flowers in church during the season of Advent which begins on Sunday 1 December.

Light Up St John's – Floodlight Sponsorship



21 November In Memory Of Howard T.W. Goth - always remembered.

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

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1/12th page ~ £30/year

 $1/6th \ page \sim £58/year$

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Miscellaneous observations:

There's nothing better than a good friend, except a good friend with chocolate.

Linda Grayson



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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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Contact Kathryn Lindsay BSc(Hons)

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