

# PARISH NOTES

Welcome to  
**St John the Divine**  
The Parish Church of  
**Menston with Woodhead**



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT SUNDAY**

**20 DECEMBER 2020**

**Sunday 9.30am - Zest**

**Sunday 11am - Service of the Word**

with optional communion at the end

**Sunday 4.00pm - Carol Service**

**Wednesday 9.30am - Holy Communion**

**Christmas Eve 11.30pm - Midnight Communion**

**Christmas Day 10.00am - Christmas Morning Celebration**

Social distancing and hygiene measures should be maintained, including the wearing of a mask unless exempt. Any overflow will be directed into the Parish Room. You can find various resources on our website to aid in worship from home, including prayer resources, videos, readings, crafts and so much more. Every Sunday you can also find resources from our services, including a video recording of the service and the written sermon—[Click here!](#)

## **READING ONE (OLD TESTAMENT): 2 SAMUEL 7: 1 - 11**

After the death of Saul, when David had returned from defeating the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag. On the third day, a man came from Saul's camp, with his clothes torn and dirt on his head. When he came to David, he fell to the ground and did obeisance. David said to him, "Where have you come from?" He said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel." David said to him, "How did things go? Tell me!" He answered, "The army fled from the battle, but also many of the army fell and died; and Saul and his son Jonathan also died." Then David asked the young man who was reporting to him, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan died?" The young man reporting to him said, "I happened to be on Mount Gilboa; and there was Saul leaning on his spear, while the chariots and the horsemen drew close to him. When he looked behind him, he saw me, and called to me. I answered, 'Here sir.' And he said to me, 'Who are you?' I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' He said to me, 'Come, stand over me and kill me; for convulsions have seized me, and yet my life still lingers.' So I stood over him, and killed him, for I knew that he could not live after he had fallen. I took the crown that was on his head and the armlet that was on his arm, and I have brought them here to my lord." Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them; and all the men who were with him did the same.

David said to him, "Your blood be on your head; for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the Lord's anointed.'"

Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

## READING TWO (NEW TESTAMENT): LUKE 1: 26—38

### *The Birth of Jesus Foretold*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

### THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to those who stood outside church in the cold and drizzle on Saturday morning to see Phillippa and Andrew on their wedding day. One of the family said, "Despite the Covid-caused circumstances, the atmosphere outside the church was magical". It really was lovely and much appreciated by all of us. Also, thank you to everyone involved in the service, music, flowers etc, and for all the cards and good wishes. Roger and Marilyn Banister.



## ST JOHN'S ROOF APPEAL

### FUNDRAISING BOOKLETS

Published during the lockdown, two new booklets by David Machin are for sale at £5 each, every penny to the church roof fund. As usual you're sure to find plenty to amuse you - and to give you pause to think:

- Let the Rafters Ring - verses fresh off the pen
- Ding Dong Merrily - tasty tales to make you smile.
- 'Verses for Funny Folk' (children and the young at heart)
  - Verse on the Wing - (our friends the birds)
- 'Machinations' - (his first volume of short stories)  
or indeed any of his earlier booklets of verse.

You can get in touch at [david@machdv.plus.com](mailto:david@machdv.plus.com) or by ringing 872228.

### CHAPLAIN'S CHUTNEY

Raising money for the roof appeal, Andrew has the following products, all homemade.

- \* Old Dower House Chutney: *traditional apple and plum a favourite!*
  - \* Sweet Piccalilli: *Northern favourite!*
- \* Christmas Chutney, *cranberries, figs, Christmas spices.*
  - \* Seville Marmalade, *sunshine in a jar!*
- \* Lemon Curd, *great for tea as well as breakfast.*
  - \* Corn Chow-chow, *like corn relish but better!*

£4 a jar, all proceeds to the roof appeal. Please email or phone for safe delivery during lockdown [associate@stjohnmenston.org.uk](mailto:associate@stjohnmenston.org.uk) or 07710561167.

## WE PRAY FOR



**The Sick:** Ken Parker, Pauline Blake, Sylvia Bradley,  
Marjorie Thompson, Eric Wilkinson

**Memorial Book:** Mary Wilson, Alan Hopkinson, Joan Gledhill, Susan  
Johnson, Maurice Harvey, David Storr, Edith  
Wilson, Catherine McLean, Ethel McLellan, Mollie  
Sowerby, June Daw, Phyllis Mulligan

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

- \* The universal church
- \* Bishops, synods and all who lead the Church
- \* The leaders of the nations
- \* The natural world and the resources of the earth
- \* All who are in any kind of need

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Christ, come into our world of darkness

Light up our lives with your coming.

Fulfil all our longings with the joy of your birth

Strengthen our resolve to work for change in our world

And to share the hope of your birth that each Advent brings.

Amen.

## CHRISTMAS AT ST JOHN'S

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Please see the poster on the final page of the notes for our additional Christmas service times. Please note that all services are subject to change according to government guidance.

### FOLLOW THE STARS TO BETHLEHEM

A fun Advent trail for all the family, running from 12 - 24 December. Follow the 22 stars hidden around Menston to find baby Jesus and crack the code! Prize draw for

correct answers. Star Map and instructions available for £1 from 1 Garth Grove on 19-20 December, 10am—2pm, or from Pickard's Deli. All proceeds to the Church Roof!

### ADVENT VIDEO REFLECTIONS

Each day of Advent, Revd. Andrew will be uploading a new video reflection. [Click here](#) to watch!

### THANK YOU!

The children and staff at Meadowlea send a huge thank you for your kind Christmas donations.

### LIGHT UP A LIFE

24 & 25 December—Howard Thomas  
William Goth. Always Remembered.

### WEDNESDAY COMMUNION

Please note, there will be no communion on 30 December.

### COVENANT SERVICE

On 3 January the 11am service at St John's will follow the service pattern of the Methodist's Covenant service since this would normally be a joint service. By sharing their liturgy, we

are being together even though we are separate.

### DIAL-A-SERMON—01943 666875

St John's has a phone line which offers a short Service of the Word. The call is charged at your local rate (i.e. the price of a normal phone call) and is available 24/7.

### MENSTON HELPLINE—01943 874335

The Menston helpline is available to support people in the village in the coming month(s). Please let us know if we can help in any way.

# Christmas

at St John's, Menston

Sunday 20 December	4.00pm	Carol Service
Thursday 24 Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight Communion
Friday 25 Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Morning Celebration

*In addition to our regular services & subject to government guidelines*

*Visit [www.stjohnmenston.org.uk](http://www.stjohnmenston.org.uk) for more information*



"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matt. 1:21

COVID-19 has led many of us to feel despair,  
loneliness and anxiety

## Being There

An online group for those who know how this feels

**Being There** is a group for people across the  
Menston area to meet safely and enjoy  
non-judgemental, inclusive friendship and support

Meeting via Zoom, it has it's heart at  
St Johns Parish Church

At some point in our lives all of us have needed to  
know that there was someone there

**Being There is there for you**

Sunday evenings 7.00pm - 8.00pm

For more information email Rev Andrew  
[beingthere@stjohnmenston.org.uk](mailto:beingthere@stjohnmenston.org.uk)