

# PARISH NOTES

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



## FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

12 JULY 2020

*We are sorry to announce that all public worship at St John's Parish Church, Menston has stopped until further notice because of the Coronavirus. Please visit our website for regular updates from St John's.*

### READING 1 (OLD TESTAMENT): PSALM 124

*Thanksgiving for Israel's Deliverance - A Song of Ascents Of David.*

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side  
—let Israel now say—

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,  
when our enemies attacked us,  
then they would have swallowed us up alive,  
when their anger was kindled against us;  
then the flood would have swept us away,  
the torrent would have gone over us;  
then over us would have gone  
the raging waters.

Blessed be the Lord,  
who has not given us  
as prey to their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird  
from the snare of the fowlers;  
the snare is broken,  
and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.

### READING 2 (NEW TESTAMENT): MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

*The Parable of the Sower*

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear."

"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

## WE PRAY FOR



### The Sick:

Ken Parker, Pauline Blake, Sylvia Bradley,  
Marjorie Thompson, Eric Wilkinson

### Memorial Book:

Ken Watson, Dorothy Siddall, Geoffrey Priestman,  
Millicent Cooke, Celia Johnson, Charles Robinson,  
Ian Rhodes, Angela Mackenzie

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

- \* The Queen, members of parliament and the armed forces
- \* Peace and justice in the world
- \* Those who work for reconciliation
- \* All those whose lives are devastated by war and strife
- \* Prisoners, refugees and homeless people

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,  
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:  
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;  
that with you as our ruler and guide  
we may so pass through things temporal  
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;  
grant this, heavenly Father,  
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

## The church building at St John's will be open for private prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays from 10am to 5pm.

This represents a first step in opening the church for private prayer and will be the pattern of opening times until this is reviewed in a few weeks. There will be various restrictions in place on the use of the building, such as a maximum of 16 people within the building at one time, and seating only on specified pews in order to protect all those who use the building. Visitors are asked to make use of the hand sanitizer provided on entry and exit.

### ST JOHN'S ROOF APPEAL

Donations are continuing to come in and now total **£24,430** which, with Gift Aid, amounts to **£29,343**. Many thanks to those who have responded so generously. We have not yet 'hit our target' so please consider making a donation if you have not already done so. Due to the current situation with Covid-19, we have postponed the distribution of appeal letters to the wider community and, of course, there have been no recent fundraising events.

### PARISH MAGAZINE

The July/August edition of the parish magazine is now available to read online at [www.stjohnmenston.org.uk/magazine](http://www.stjohnmenston.org.uk/magazine)

### COMMUNION

Bishop Nick has approved Communion before Confirmation at St John's. This means that a person is

now allowed to take part in consumption of the sacramental elements of communion before being confirmed. Please note, the child must be aged 7 or over and a period of preparation will be required, as well as written consent from a parent/guardian

### DIAL-A-SERMON

St John's has a phone line which offers a short Service of the Word. The call is charged at your local rate (ie. the standard local rate of your phone tariff) and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. **01943 666875**

### Sunday Resources on the website

There is a new Service of the Word video and a new Zest service video on our website this Sunday morning! Head over to [www.stjohnmenston.org.uk/weekly-resources](http://www.stjohnmenston.org.uk/weekly-resources) to watch!