

2020

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PARISH CHURCH  
St John the Divine

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*TRINITY SUNDAY*  
*7 June*

# ROOF APPEAL ~ What's happening!

Our target ~ £102,000

Income to 29/5/2020

*Fundraising events to date                      £866*  
*[There have been no events over the lockdown period]*

**Congregational Giving                      £26,642 with Gift Aid**

We are still short of our fundraising target so it is not too late to donate either by

- **BACS to: Menston PCC 40-22-28 A/C 40572640 Reference (most imp) : Roof + surname**
- **or cheque payable to Menston PCC. Send to the Treasurer, Hillcrest, Kelcliffe Lane, Guiseley, Leeds LS20 9DE or post through the Parish Office letterbox. If you are a taxpayer please consider Gift Aid. A gift aid declaration form is available from the Treasurer if he does not already hold your details.**

Fundraising Events for your diaries - dates in the next few months are provisional on Government lockdown advice.

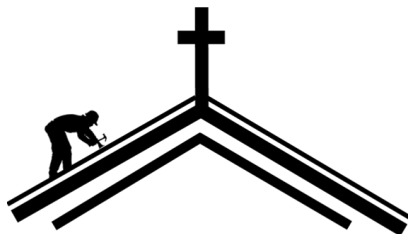
*Two Open Gardens ~ Postponed until June 2021*

***Nostalgia Night** ~ Due to the present circumstances, the Nostalgia Evening arranged for the 4 July this year at Kirklands will now take place at a later date. The event will feature local band Time Warp who play classic hits from the 50's,60's,70's and later. Included in the ticket will be a pie and peas supper, bar and raffle. Details of the new date will be circulated when available.*

<b>Coffee Morning</b>	Saturday 18 July @ 2 Park Way
<b>Bridge Drive</b>	Wednesday 21 October
<b>Candlelit Supper</b>	Friday 11 December

Your ideas welcomed for fundraising events. **PLEASE** contact Kathy Roberts with your ideas. She collates dates etc to avoid clashes.

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## From the Editor

Welcome to the third on-line edition of the magazine. My sincere thanks to all of you who have contributed to this issue - keep them coming please! Although there seems to a small chink of light in the lockdown, I foresee that the next edition of the magazine, which will cover the two summer months of July and August as usual, will also be on-line.

One of the lockdown 'bonuses' for me has been spending far more time in our garden. The wonderful spring weather that we have experienced has certainly helped to produce lovely displays from many of the plants. Having time to look and marvel at their beauty is a blessing in itself.

One of the plants that has excelled itself this year is a large clump of blue bearded irises. It struck me as I admired them one evening that they are the perfect flower for Trinity Sunday. There are 3 standards (the petals that stick up), 3 falls (the petals that hang down with the lovely furry beards) and, if you look inside the standards, 3 more, small petals - so 3:3:3 - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They have, however, proved quite difficult to photograph so you'll have to take my word for the construction of the flower head. Apologies for the lack of botanical expertise!

My good wishes to you all and keep safe and well.

*Jan*

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## The Vicarage

### Dear Friends

A few weeks ago, I wrote a sermon on John 10:1-6, the beginning of the speech where Jesus claims to be the Good Shepherd. In it, I talked a lot about hearing the right voices, and in particular hearing from God. However, it struck me as I did it (but I didn't have space to go into it) that in the passage, the sheep were waiting in the sheepfold until the shepherd came and called their name.

As I write this, we are still in isolation, which may have changed by the time it is published, but either way, life won't be back to normal. It seems important therefore to think about what it means to wait. The sheep in the sheepfold in Jesus's analogy are waiting for the shepherd's voice, and discerning it over and against the other voices which I touched on in my sermon.

So how do we go about waiting to hear the shepherd's voice, whether that's while we are in physical isolation, or just waiting to hear God's voice to us more generally in our lives? If you've ever watched sheep idling their time away, then you may well know what the answer is. They generally stand around eating or feeding their lambs, while keeping a lookout for danger.

For us, as Christians, this is a great example of what it means as we wait, in isolation perhaps, and listen for God's voice. We may feel like, at the moment when churches are closed, work is difficult, childcare and schooling is frustrating, and when we have so many other cares to think about, that our life is floundering. But like the sheep, we should be eating and listening.

Eating for Christians, is all about nourishment with God's word, the Bible, and spending time with God in prayer. These are both ways in which we can be fed spiritually while the church is shut, (and when it is open too) and made more able to recognise God's voice when he calls us. If these disciplines are new to you, or perhaps ones you've lost the habit for, then now is the time to restart. On our website, there's lots of information to help you. You could follow through a book of the Bible with us, or you could try out some of the prayer hints that are on there.

Like the sheep, we eat and listen for God, training ourselves to hear Jesus' call upon our lives, and nourishing ourselves in prayer and in God's word while we wait. If you emerge from lockdown different in any way, let it be that you have developed the discipline of spending time with God each day. Compared to other habits you could pick up in lockdown, this one will serve you for your whole life, and beyond.

*Steve*



## **From Margaret Harvey**

I am so grateful for all your prayers and support during my recent illness. Your cards and kind messages mean a great deal to me - so my thanks to everyone who has been in touch.

## A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

First thing – how are you all? I hope the current times are not proving too difficult. I know from personal experience that the change in routine, whilst novel at first, has at times taken quite a strain. I have cleaned my house to within an inch of its life, watched everything I had recorded for rainy days, read more books than I usually do in a year and I have even been out on my bike! There are still moments when the never ending nature of the crisis can almost overwhelm. These moments pass and I try to remain positive. When frustration gets too much my tip is to change a duvet cover! The physical exertion and hilarity caused when, more often than not, it is I rather than the duvet that ends up in the cover inevitably lifts the mood.

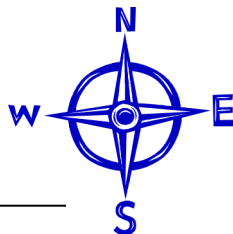
Finding things to do when so much of what we do is off limits has been a real test. I have much more empathy with my learners in the prison than at any point since I have worked there! It would be too easy to slip into a pool of melancholy and 'poor me' when actually we have lots to be grateful for.

I smile on my daily Johnson jaunt at the tenacious beauty of nature. Whether a well planted border, the sparkle of the sun across a pond or even the sumptuous burst of yellow provided by a clutch of rogue dandelions, the joy that we live in a world providing such wonder is a great comfort.

Many orchestras, theatres and artists have made their output available online to keep us entertained. It is remarkable how adept we are as a race to know what others lack and to provide solace, humour or a virtual shoulder to cry on. I have made time to catch up with some of the resources on the St John website. I must pay credit to Steve and Andrew as they have given me pause for thought whilst at the same time making me still feel part of the community. It is good to see and hear them every week.

Finally it is a great comfort to know that this is a test that we will pass. For too often, my generation has had a pretty easy run. Watching those who came through the Second World War when the threat was greater even than now has reminded me that in times of struggle and trial, the best we can do is simply to ***'keep calm and carry on.'***

# Prayer Points



Most merciful God, in the midst of natural disaster  
we look to you in hope and trust,  
acknowledging that there is much in life  
beyond our present understanding.

Accept our compassion for the suffering:  
bless those who are working for their relief;  
and show us what we can do to share in their task,  
as servants of Jesus Christ our Lord.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

We thank you, our Father, for those whose lives  
are dedicated to the healing of the sick  
and to the relief of suffering;  
and we ask your blessing upon their work  
in our hospitals, nursing homes and clinics.  
We pray also for those engaged in medical research,  
that cures may be found for those diseases and disorders  
at present beyond man's skill and aid.  
Of your mercy hear us, O God,  
as we pray in the name of Jesus our Lord.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Lord bless you and keep you:  
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you:  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you  
and give you peace.

*(Numbers 6: 24-25)*

*With thanks to Ann Hill for this month's Prayer Points*

## A LIGHTER LOOK @ COVID-19

Elizabeth Leopold and I have shared many a laugh via our smart phones since lockdown began way back in March. One of the good things to come out of the crisis has been the wealth of material poking fun at current life. These can take the form of short videos, cartoons or witticisms. We thought we'd share a few. Apologies if you have seen them before but we hope some of them raise a smile at least!



One of the earliest ones to appear was: *A man met God walking in Yorkshire and asked 'What are You doing here?' 'Working from home' came the reply!*

**'Lockdown lingo'** - are you fully conversant with the new terminology? Here are a few terms to get you in the groove:

- **Coronacoaster** - The ups and downs of your mood during the pandemic. You're loving lockdown one minute but suddenly weepy with anxiety the next. It truly is 'an emotional coronacoaster'.
- **Le Creuset wrist** - an aching arm after taking one's best saucepan outside to bang during the weekly 'Clap For Carers.' It might be heavy but you're keen to impress the neighbours with your high-quality kitchenware.
- **Quarantinis** - Experimental cocktails mixed from whatever random ingredients you have left in the house. The boozy equivalent of a store cupboard supper. Southern Comfort and Ribena quarantini with a glacé cherry garnish, anyone? These are sipped at 'locktail hour' ie. wine o'clock during lockdown, which seems to be creeping earlier with each passing week.
- **Coronadose** - An overdose of bad news from consuming too much media during a time of crisis. Can result in a 'panicdemic'.
- **Furlough Merlot** - Wine consumed in an attempt to relieve the frustration of not working. Also known as 'bored-eaux' or 'cabernet tedium'.

*Jan Alexander*



Over to Elizabeth for her own inimitable view of life during lockdown!

## MY LOCKDOWN IN STATISTICS

A chance remark by Jan about garden waste bags, got me thinking about what I had and hadn't done during the time between 17 March and 17 May. So, in no particular order, **the number of ...**

• trips out of the village to a supermarket	3
• Zoom family birthday parties	3
• Zoom parties finished early in order to play with new lego	1
• shower heads restored to sparking pristine condition	1
• Zoom G & T drinks 'sessions' with my daughter	3
• weddings not attended in Surrey	1
• daily walks round the village	51
• including walks round High Royds	19
• days I couldn't be bothered going for a walk	9
• on-line Pilates lessons attempted	8
• lessons when it was hard so I laid on the floor and watched the teacher instead !	4
• dodgy knees as a result of all the exercise always – 1 ... often 2 time I practised scales on the piano -part of the lock-down plan	0
• paperbacks read	7
• pages of new Hilary Mantel book read	248
• pages still to read	627
• tapestries restarted after a gap of more than 20 years	1
• holidays in Italy I didn't go on in May	1
• times I have cut my fringe	2
• magazine articles published ..... if you are reading this	1

I am so thankful to live in such beautiful surroundings, and to be able to go for walks, often meeting friends to have a chat with – at a distance! I am also grateful for all the uplifting phone conversations that have kept my spirits up during these long weeks.

I hope we can all be together before too long.

*Elizabeth Leopold*

## THIS MONTH from Andrew

On 23/24 May this year, we saw the end of Ramadan and the joyous celebration of Eid al-Fitr celebrated by our Muslim sisters and brothers around the world. Ramadan, Islam's holiest month, is normally a time spent in community, fasting whilst the sun is up, praying at Mosques, and breaking fasts together with great Iftars (meals shared with friends and neighbours) at sundown.

Along with Passover, Easter-tide, and Vaisakhi, religious festivals have been cancelled through COVID-19 and people of all faiths have been challenged to find new ways to live out their beliefs and celebrate their holy-days. As one of the two co-ordinators of the Interfaith project 'Believing in Bradford' I was curious to understand how our current circumstances have affected some believers experiences.

Two Muslim women writing about these challenges, reflected that despite the pandemic, Ramadan this year has felt more peaceful than in previous years. Like many people of faith, much of the normally shared worship has shifted to 'on-line'. Sahar explained that instead of going to the mosque to serve iftar her family has been gathering virtually on Zoom for what they have dubbed 'ziftar', and at midnight she has joined a video-call with a small group of friends who read the Qur'an together.

'One of my friends has a cat, and every time he sits down and reads, you'll see a furry tail waving across the screen,' she says. 'The midnight Qur'an Reading has been really nice. It feels very grounding, and has given a sense of stability'.

Nadia reflected that for her this time has been a shift from community to family, 'sharing Ramadan at home during the pandemic has meant a new groundedness with my immediate family, centredness is still there but it's family-centric.'

Reading the thoughts of both Nadia and Sahar, it is interesting to

see how, as people of faith we have all been challenged to adapt the familiar, inventing new ways to hold on to old traditions as a practice of gratitude, perhaps even discovering a new richness in what was familiar before.

Here at St John's we have also been trying to find new ways to ground our faith. The Parish website ([www.stjohnmenston.org.uk](http://www.stjohnmenston.org.uk)) has become a hub for much of what we are trying to do, and for those with access on on-line facilities we hope you are enjoying the broad range of resources that we are sharing. There is a zoom bible study group, a zoom Start course, and hints and tips for prayer and reflection, alongside virtual services and on-line sermons.

For people with less technology we have started to share more via the Parish notice board, so that people passing on their daily walks might see this weeks reflection and prayer and maybe 'take it with them' on their walk. The Church of England have also opened their Daily Hope line, a free phone line of hymns prayers and reflections (0800 804 8044).

Not being together as a Church family is painful for us. Just as every faith community caught up in this global pandemic, our challenge is to look and listen for signs of God during this time, and discover in different ways what our faith means to us.

With love and prayers,

*Andrew*

And a funny to lighten the mood?

Until further notice the days of the week are now called, Thisday, Thatday, Otherday, Someday, Yesterday, Today, and Nextday!

## *TRINITY SUNDAY ~ 7 June*

The first Sunday after Pentecost in the Western Christian liturgical calendar, celebrating the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries! One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out in space, and unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father. The light that flows from it, and which illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are *of* the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

*Parish Pump News Service*



The *Trinity* is a well-known 15th century icon created by Russian painter *Andrei Rublev*. It is regarded as one of the highest achievements of Russian Art. It depicts the three angels who visited Abraham at the Oak of Mamre. At the time of Rublev, the Holy Trinity was the embodiment of spiritual unity, peace, harmony, mutual love and humility.



**During this difficult time when MU and many other organisations and businesses are not functioning because of the Coronavirus pandemic, it is pleasing to find something to write about which may be of interest to many of us.**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Mothers' Union has made a very practical response to the coronavirus.

As their website explains, 'We know that our work and experience in re-building communities and supporting family life is going to be more important than ever once the threat of COVID-19 subsides. Our members will be some of the first in line to support those around them.'

In the meantime, MU has drawn together a range of resources to 'help nurture our members and their friends and neighbours through this challenging time.' The resources will 'help combat feelings of loneliness, to nourish faith and to help you continue to feel connected to your friends and community.'

These include: rainbows, prayer cards, prayer resources, puzzles resources, and Bible study resources. More info at: <https://www.mothersunion.org>

## Fasting Under Lockdown

Well, that was the hardest Lenten Fast I have ever done! Why? Because if ever there was a time when I have needed comfort food it is now during the lockdown! What makes me feel most ashamed is the fact that the things I gave up for Lent were not essential for my general health - hardly my 'daily bread'! Who really needs chocolate, sweets and biscuits?!

However, some good has come of it. I raised £100 towards the church roof appeal ( which might

have been more had I been able to get more sponsors - church closure came at the wrong time!)

Also, more importantly, it made me stop and think and pray for all who suffer from addictions and all who are starving for their real 'daily bread'. It was a very humbling experience and I have now resolved to double my giving to Christian Aid.

Thank you to all who sponsored me, with love and best wishes from *Jane Pratt*



## If only . . .

If only I could write a poem with a line or two  
I'd hope that it was good enough for family and for you.

I enjoy Cluedo and working out anagrams  
and a variety of programmes on TV.

But . . . what I really do miss  
is meeting friends and family.

I chat on the phone but when over I'm still alone.

Always pleased to see the shining sun  
in the hope that Coronavirus will soon be over and done.

Amen!

*Iris Nerurkar*

**Anyone remember the poetess Pam Ayres? Well, she's 73 and still going strong. This is her latest ode to coronavirus...**

I'm normally a social girl  
I love to meet my mates  
But lately with the virus here  
We can't go out the gates.

So here you find me stuck inside  
For four weeks, maybe more  
I finally found myself again  
Then I had to close the door!

You see, we are the 'oldies' now  
We need to stay inside  
If they haven't seen us for a while  
They'll think we've upped and died.

It didn't really bother me  
I'd while away the hour  
I'd bake for all the family  
But I've got no flaming flour!

They'll never know the things we did  
Before we got this old  
There wasn't any Facebook  
So not everything was told.

Now Netflix is just wonderful  
I like a gutsy thriller  
I'm swooning over Idris  
Or some random sexy killer.

We may seem sweet old ladies  
Who would never be uncouth  
But we grew up in the 60s -  
If you only knew the truth!

At least I've got a stash of booze  
For when I'm being idle  
There's wine and whisky, even gin  
If I'm feeling suicidal!

There was sex and drugs and  
rock 'n roll  
The pill and miniskirts  
We smoked, we drank, we partied  
And were quite outrageous flirts.

So let's all drink to lockdown  
To recovery and health  
And hope this awful virus  
Doesn't decimate our wealth.

Then we settled down, got married  
And turned into someone's mum,  
Somebody's wife, then nana,  
Who on earth did we become?

We'll all get through the crisis  
And be back to join our mates  
Just hoping I'm not far too wide  
To fit through the flaming gates!

We didn't mind the change of pace  
Because our lives were full  
But to bury us before we're dead  
Is like a red rag to a bull!

*With thanks to Margaret Day*

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