2021

FEBRUARY

# MENSTON PARISH CHURCH St John the Divine



Ash Wednesday
17 February

**60p** 



### From the Editor



Once again, due to lockdown restrictions we are unable to deliver hard copies of the magazine and so for the next few months we are publishing on-line.

Do check out up to date service details and worship resources on the website **www.stjohnmenston.org.uk** Parish Notes for the forthcoming week can be viewed together with videos of the Zest services.

Normally at this time of year we would start to collect the magazine subscriptions. This is currently not possible so the collection will be delayed until the spring.

Finally, new this month and something to occupy and enlighten a quiet time is a crossword largely based on biblical clues. Answers supplied on page 19.

I'm extremely grateful to all who submit copy, in particular Steve and Andrew whose letters give us encouragement and hope and remind us that we are not alone.

May we all stay safe and well.

Jan Alexander

	This month	P9	Climate Change
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P6	Prayer Points	p16	New! - Crossword
P7	A View from the Pews	P18	Bible Bite

Copy for the MARCH magazine, which will be an on-line edition only, is due by **Sunday 14 February**. Please email copy to both editor and Parish Office (office@stjohnmenston.org.uk) or leave copy for typing with the office.

## ROOF APPEAL ~ What's happening!

**Our target** ~ £102,000

# 5

#### Income to 24/1/2021

The appeal has currently raised from:

Congregational giving £34,163 Fundraising activities £4,495 Menston community £3,218 Gift Aid claimed £7,905

TOTAL £49,781 (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**

Fundraising events are currently cancelled due to the ongoing issues associated with

Covid-19. Definite events will be notified in good time via the Parish Notes, website and magazine.

#### The Vicarage

#### **Dear Friends**

I read Matthew 14 this morning, which contains the story of John the Baptist's death, followed by the feeding of the 5,000, and Jesus walking on water – a really busy chapter! and one that covers issues of human mortality (John's death), human scarcity (5,000), and human fear (walking on water).

Running through the chapter is Jesus' desire to get some space to grieve and process the death of John, alongside his competing compulsion to show compassion and care to the people who are with him. As the chapter ends, he is still surrounded by crowds of sick people desperate even just to touch his cloak. It seems that everywhere he goes, people in need follow. Everywhere he looks there are people who need God's touch. Jesus has his own grief and need for rest and time to himself, but despite going to a 'deserted place' and 'walking on a lake,' he struggles to get this. He finds brief respite up a mountain, but even then, has to leave to look after his fearful disciples. Everywhere Jesus goes, the peoples' need for God is real and immediate.

Sometimes we feel exhausted by all that is going on around us. In this chapter, we get the impression that Jesus felt the same. He needed to spend time in prayer with his Father in order to process what was going on and to rest. Perhaps this gives us the blueprint for what to do in our own situations where we feel that there are just so many people who need our help at the moment and we are emotionally or physically exhausted.

The 5,000 people needed God's help, because they were waiting for a commodity which would ensure them life tomorrow (food). Perhaps we are similar as we wait for a vaccine which we hope will free us from the pandemic situation we are living in. The disciples were battered and risked being swamped by the storm, fearing that they were to be overwhelmed. Perhaps we feel the

same at the moment as we live with anxiety, continued isolation, and the immanent worry that Covid, or finances, or family worries bring.

All these people looked to Jesus for their help in their times of real and present trouble. In fact, this is summed up with Peter who leaves the boat, but then struggles amidst the waves as he takes his eye off Jesus. Throughout the whole chapter, there is rescue and help when people look to Jesus. Perhaps, as we navigate these choppy waters or wait for a vaccine which feels a bit like waiting for the five loaves and two fish at times, we need to follow Peter's example and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, trusting that Jesus will reach out and catch us when we are struggling.

Matthew 14 is a busy chapter, but one which really seems to relate to this month. I challenge you to read and re-read it throughout February, and let it guide your prayer and the way you see all the issues around us this month. The challenge for February will be therefore to look to Jesus in all we face and in all our needs; and to spend time with God, the Father, in prayer for our rest - placing our trust in him who created us in the first place.

#### Steve

#### FROM THE REGISTERS

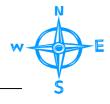
**HOLY MATRIMONY** We extend our congratulations to: 5 December Calum McIvor & Katie Wright

12 December Andrew Gardner & Phillippa Banister

**FUNERAL SERVICES** We commend into the hands of Almighty God:

2 Feb Joyce Edgley

# Prayer Points



#### An uncertain world, but signs of spring and hope are emerging

Jesus said, 'I have come as a light into the world that whoever believes in me should not abide in darkness' *John 12v46* 

The Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, writes

'My wellbeing is tied up with the wellbeing of my neighbour. If I want my family, my community, and my nation to flourish, then I must pay attention to the health, wellbeing and flourishing of everyone else across the globe.'

#### Let us pray for:

The wellbeing of our world and give thanks for all who strive to make that possible.

We pray for those who struggle with the past year's problems, and seek guidance for the encouragement of those in need.

May our church continue to be a place of solace and sanctuary for our community.

We hold up to God our requirements for a new roof, and our appeal to make that possible.

Let us return to the Millennium Resolution:

Let there be
Respect for the earth
Peace for it's people
Love in our lives
Forgiveness for past wrongs
And from now on a new start.

'In front the sun climbs slow, how slowly, But westward, look, the land is bright'

From the poem and hymn 'Say not the struggle naught availeth' by Arthur Hugh Clough (1819-61)

With thanks to Sallie Finch for this month's Prayer Points

#### A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

In the summer of 1978, my primary school class had a trip to the Royal Observatory at Greenwich. As a record of the trip, I bought my mother a bookmark and key fob. At work during Advent last year, I helped to organise a collection for a local food bank. I tell these stories not to blow my own trumpet but to highlight one of the most joyful parts of being human. When we can, giving help, food, sustenance, support, kindness or trinkets to others brings us all a sense of joy. The knowledge that through our actions we have helped to make the lives of others a little better, if only for a moment, makes the world seem a little brighter.

I have written in the past about the best of humanity throughout the pandemic. As we are into a new year and hopefully coming towards the beginning of the end of the pandemic, I think it is worth reflecting on those things we should seek to flourish in a post-pandemic world. For me, the act of giving and the development of a charitable mind give tremendous hope for the future. The Church has a great role in leading the discussion on charity. It offers a space both internally and externally to consider our own needs and our ability to give to others. It is a relief to know that others are there to help should the need arise.

To whom we give is also an important consideration. The problems facing the world are so huge that we cannot solve them all. Where we can help is to find those groups whose needs we can alleviate. It may well be something of a cliché but 'charity begins at home' is an excellent place to start. In a recent online survey, Bradford was voted the fourth worst place to live in the UK. While a lot of that may well be prejudice against certain communities or disdain for the travails of civic leaders, it does suggest that there is a need for intervention to try to help improve the standard of life for people in the Bradford area.

At the moment, of course, much of the work of support groups in communities across the land is truncated or has ceased altogether. One of the challenges for 2021 is to work out how we can still fulfil the mission to offer hope and charity in more creative and effective ways.

I hope you all continue to keep safe.

#### **CLIMATE ACTION MENSTON**

You may have seen that the work on the 'Hole in the Wall' in Menston Park started in early January and hopefully is complete by the time you read this. This was a Climate Action Menston idea that was taken to the Parish Council who organised the work and funding. We are hoping that it will encourage active travel between Chevin Park and the village centre. I am sure we have all appreciated the network of footpaths around the village during lockdown and we hope this will help too.

Other initiatives are the planting of a 'Jam and Jelly' hedge behind Kirklands in conjunction with Menston in Bloom. Also, if you know of sites for tree planting, do get in touch.

During 2020, the Zero Carbon Energy group worked with Kirklands Trust on the potential for solar panels. Going forward, the group wants to get everyone to think about their carbon footprint and hopes to be able to make use of a thermal imaging camera so that people can assess what steps they could take to improve heat loss.

CAM now has a constitution and bank account so if you would like to support what we are doing, have ideas, etc do join us. The annual subscription is £10 per year. Please contact us via the website: <a href="https://climateactionmenston.org.uk/">https://climateactionmenston.org.uk/</a> or Marilyn or Roger Banister on 874220.

We hope that in a few months time we will be able to return to face to face meetings but in the meantime, we meet on Zoom so do contact us for details. The next meeting is on Tuesday 23 February.

Marilyn Banister

#### **WEDDING THANKS**

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to Phillippa and Andrew's wedding. It was so lovely that some of you came to stand outside the church in the cold and swelled our numbers! The service was lovely, with music but no singing, but a good atmosphere. So the issues with banns, venues all melted away ... The children enjoyed the chocolate money and the Land Rover caused a bit of a stir. A memorable day in 2020!

Roger and Marilyn Banister

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

We have been hearing about climate change and the effects on the environment for decades. Unfortunately, the current coronavirus pandemic has taken 'our eye off the ball', but there has never been a more important time to address the problem as time is running out.

Two individuals spring to mind who are decades apart in age but in their own way have drawn our attention to the crisis. They are Greta Thunberg, the Swedish teenage environmental activist who has challenged the world leaders to take immediate action against climate change and Sir David Attenborough, the ninety four year old, natural history presenter and conservationist who has been warning us about the effects of climate change on creation and the threat of extinction of many of our plant and animal species.

The primary cause of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels, such as oil and coal which emit greenhouse gases into the atmosphere - primarily carbon dioxide. Other human activities, such as agriculture and deforestation, also contribute to the proliferation of greenhouse gases which trap the sun's heat and stop it from leaking back into space - giving rise to global warming.

The effects of climate change are

innumerable - more frequent and intense drought, storms, heatwaves, rising sea levels, melting glaciers, warming and acidification of the oceans which can directly harm animals, destroy their habitats and wreak havoc on people's livelihoods and communities. As climate change worsens, dangerous weather events are becoming more frequent or severe. If emissions continue rising at their record breaking rate then one in six of the world's species faces extinction.

When asked what the one most important thing they thought ought to be done Greta replied 'Understand the problem and spread the word by putting pressure on the people in power' and Sir David said 'Don't waste electricity, gas, power, food or time!'

We can REMEMBER the 3 Rs - reduce, reuse and recycle. PRAY (and fast) for the climate on the 1st of each month, as asked for by Christians of all denominations. We are asked to pray for a just and meaningful global climate agreement at the UN climate talks.

## **OBSERVE** Climate Sunday on 21 February.

PRAY FOR COP 26 which is taking place in Glasgow on 1-12 November 2021. Over 200 countries, businesses, NGO's (non governmental organisations) and faith groups will be represented.

Jane Pratt, Outreach Group

#### All in the month of February

75 years ago, on 11 February 1946 that The Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published. It was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version published in 1611.

**65 years ago**, on 11 February 1956 two members of the Cambridge spy ring, British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, announced that they had defected to the Soviet Union. They had both vanished in mysterious circumstances in 1951.

**50** *years ago*, on 15 February 1971 the UK's currency was decimalised.

**20** years ago, on 19 February 2001 the first case of foot-and-mouth disease in the 2001 UK outbreak were detected at an abattoir in Essex. The EU subsequently banned all British meat, milk and livestock exports.

#### **GREEN TIPS for this month**

There are so many things we can do to live lives that are just and fair and that respect this beautiful world God has made.



- Buy local and seasonal produce. Try to avoid vegetables grown in a hothouse.
- Discover the cleaning power of a paste of Bicarbonate of Soda and vinegar. Brilliant on greasy kitchen surfaces.

Remember - small actions on our part DO make changes.

Outreach Group

#### **OUTEACH GROUP**

During October the Outreach Group were asked to make recommendations to PCC about St John's mission giving in 2020. After considerable deliberation, we put forward the following proposals:



- Continue our support for **USPG** (60%)
- Tyanjane Clinic in Malawi (20%)
- Christian Aid (10%)
- A Rocha (the Christian environmental charity that runs the Eco church award scheme amongst other activities) (10%).

We were pleased that PCC decided to follow our recommendations and allocated approximately £5,000 for the giving. This is a really powerful statement that, despite demands on funds here, we are willing to be generous to those in need around the world and particularly for those being impacted by climate change.

For more information about the particular organisations, please see these websites:

https://www.uspg.org.uk/about/three-strategic-aims/

https://arocha.org.uk/

https://www.christianaid.org.uk/

The Outreach Team - Marilyn Banister, Jan Alexander, Jane Pratt and Iris Nerurkar

## Worship this month

7 Feb	The Second Sunday before LENT Readings: Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31; John 1: 1-14
11.00am	Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist
14 Feb	The Sunday next before LENT Readings: 2 Kings 2: 1-12; Mark 9: 2-9
11.00am	Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist
17 Feb	ASH WEDNESDAY see Worship note
21 Feb	The First Sunday of LENT Readings: Genesis 1: 1-5; John 3: 16-21
11.00am	Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist
28 Feb	The Second Sunday of LENT Readings: Genesis 1: 6-8; John 4; 1-14
11.00am	Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist
7 Mar	The Third Sunday of LENT Readings: Genesis 1: 9-13; John 15: 1-11
11.00am	Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist

Due to the national lockdown, the Sunday Zest service will be on-line and Wednesday morning Holy Communion services are postponed until further notice.

The church building will be open for private prayer on Wednesdays from 10am-4pm, and Sundays after the 11am service, until 4pm.

#### **WORSHIP NOTES**

#### ASH WEDNESDAY 17

February - This special service marking the start of Lent will take place in church at 9.30am. Following Covid guidelines, ash will sprinkled on the head rather than the marking of a cross on the forehead.

#### **COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**

Please maintain physical distancing measures when in the church building. During the 11am service, any overflow will be directed to the Parish Room



where the speaker system will be used to enable people there to take part.

Normal hygiene measures (sanitiser on entry and exit, etc.) are in place, and a register is kept of those who attend for the purposes of contact tracing.

#### LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

How do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church?

The course has been produced in video format, with a booklet as well, and comprises five interactive workshop sessions with some personal reading in between. These will take place from 7.30pm-9.00pm on:

- Thursdays 18 / 25 February
- Thursdays 11 / 18 / and Wednesday 24 March

If you are interested in taking part in this course, please contact Marilyn Banister by Friday 5 February (marilyn@banisters.org.uk)

This course provides an excellent opportunity for us to engage with subjects that are too often simply not talked about using material that has been carefully produced and offering tools to engage well across a range of different opinions and convictions.

#### **PCC Notes**

PCC met on 23 November with a very full agenda. Annual review of Health and Safety and Safeguarding policies was carried out along with other practical administrative business to do with banking and employment. Julie Marston was officially appointed as PCC secretary for the year. New initiatives such as 'Being There' and a new e-prayer initiative were adopted.

We will approach the community concerning the church roof fund as soon as possible to enable us to



approach grant bodies in a bid to get to the total as soon as we can.

Given the extraordinary year, it seemed appropriate to the PCC to dip into reserves in order to fund our aim of giving 5% of annual income to church sponsored charities, as recommended by the Outreach group.

Vicar

#### **COVID HUMOUR**

Never in my wildest dreams have I imagined myself entering a bank, wearing a mask and asking for money.

I need to social distance myself from my fridge. I tested positive for excess weight.

Quarantine seems like a Netflix series - just when you think it's over, they release the next season.

Never thought my hands would one day consume more alcohol than my liver!



#### 2021: Rebuilding Hope and Confidence

#### Wave of Prayer - 8 January 2021

Because of the pandemic, instead of members meeting together as usual to take part in this annual event, a small group were asked to read through the service sheet at home at the same time in our allotted slot of noon - 1 pm on the above date. They were asked to light a candle and perhaps play music in the background as they read through the service sheet which contained information about our links and prayers for its members.

Prayer is the foundation of Mothers' Union and throughout the year members maintain a wave of prayer around the world, daily and annually, as we do in Leeds Diocese during the 8-10 January. Leeds links are with the Dioceses of Lesotho in Southern Africa, Kibungo in Rwanda, Etche and Ogbomoso in Nigeria and Hanuato in the Solomon Islands.

One prayer was 'Lord this year lies open before us. The pandemic raised our awareness of the interdependence and fragility of your world. We ask that in this coming year we as Mothers' Union continue to find ways to make our voices heard and to take action to combat the many issues faced in today's world. The challenges of gender based violence, modern slavery, climate change, racism and domestic abuse loom large but we know that even a small action can change a life and make a difference.'

During the past year, it has been a great disappointment that St John's MU, like everyone else, has been unable to meet because of government restrictions, and members have missed out on their usual programme of church services and social interaction. It is still unclear when things will change back to some form of normality, but we have to think of the future of our branch. We hope members were prepared to pay their annual subscription as usual and that when we can meet again, we have not lost too many members.

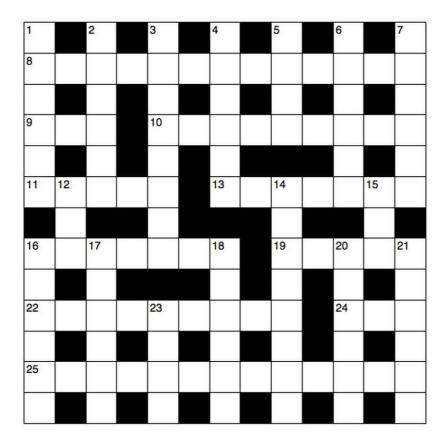
The following prayer is for all our members:

Loving God, I thank you for my membership of the Mothers' Union and for the privilege of belonging to a worldwide group of Christians concerned with marriage and family life.

Thank you for the friendships made and memories shared. In the coming year enable me to maintain the commitment made, when I became a member, to continue to uphold in prayer the work of the Mothers' Union. Amen

With love and prayers until we meet again

Marjorie Boddy & Ann Dixon



#### Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down:
- 'On — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)
- 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

#### Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: '
- salt to your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

Answers page 23.

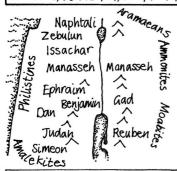
Parish Pump News Service

# BIDERIC

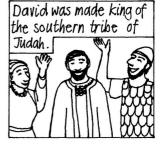
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Josh13:8-20:48 |Sam31:1-5, 2Sam2:4-24,3:12,17-27,4,5:1-5

When the Jews reached the place that God had promised them, each tribe was given land to live in But they were surrounded by enemies.







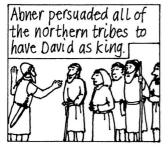
But Saul's army commander, Abner, took Saul's last son, Ishbosheth,north and made hun king of the rest of Israel



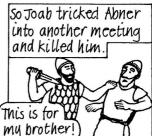
Joab was David's commander. The two armies fought and Abner killed Joab's brother.



Isbosheth was a poorking and Abner decided to join David.







Then two men sneaked into Ishbosheth's house and killed him as he had a nap.





#### NOTICE BOARD

#### CHRISTMAS BIG JAR APPEAL for NIGHTSTOP ~

the final total was £276.60. Thank you to all who gave so generously.

Since 1993 and over 10,000 bed nights later, Bradford Nightstop's emergency scheme has been providing accommodation for homeless young people in the homes of vetted and trained volunteers. The Nightstop model - with over 30 centres across the UK network - is an efficient and valuable alternative to hostel or shelter accommodation. It responds quickly and flexibly to immediate need, is free at the point of use and does not consider the young person's status with regard to entitlement to benefit or residency. Due to the pandemic they are currently unable to accept referrals but hope to re-open soon.

#### **Light Up St John's – Floodlight Sponsorship**

#### Feb 17 - Loving memories of my mum on her anniversary

Now that the dark winter nights are with us this is 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 office@stjohnmenston.org.uk to make arrangements.

#### ALTAR FLOWERS

Lent begins on Wednesday 17 February - so no flowers in church until Easter Day. A new flower rota will be placed in the church porch in March. Sincere thanks to all the lovely ladies who have provided flowers in church during the last year.

#### **CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

ACROSS: 8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

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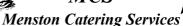
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#### Our aim is to be as helpful as possible, but don't just take our word for it:

"Thank you for all your help over the past 18 months! It was worth the wait to find the right house for us!"

JO AND LEE

"Thanks so much to all at Ribston Pippin for the sale of our property. It was a pleasure to deal with such nice people. All the best for the future." **PAT AND JOHN** 

"Thank you for being so easy to deal with and for making our house purchase very straightforward. Thank you also for your words of wisdom during times of stress" JESSICA R

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#### Please visit our website for more information

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