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MENSTON
PARISH CHURCH
St John the Divine



Remembrance Sunday
8 November



From the Editor



Sincere thanks to all who enabled last month's magazine to be distributed once again as a paper copy.

Our heartiest congratulations to Jane Pratt who was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to the community of Menston in the Queen's Birthday Honours list published recently. Richly deserved!

This edition looks at the season of Remembrance - somewhat changed in appearance this year due to Covid-19. Thank you to Steve and Andrew for all that they are doing to create a return to worship, albeit in a restricted format. It can't be easy keeping up with the ever-changing guidelines!

Stir-up Sunday (p9) - its Collect in the Book of Common Prayer is a personal favourite. The wording, though it does sound rather archaic, is quite beautiful and memorable. Stirring of Christmas puddings will also be different for many families this year. Maybe Zoom will add something to the flavour!

Stay safe and well. *Jan Alexander*

Remembrance



Copy for the double December/January magazine is due by **Sunday 15 November**. Please email copy to BOTH editor and Parish Office (office@stjohnmenston.org.uk) or leave copy for typing with the office.

A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

Gosh, October has turned up rather quickly. I am sure when I checked the calendar last it was still March! As a child one of my favourite church events was Harvest festival. That wonderful time when we give thanks for the blessed gifts and riches of the earth. As an English teacher I have been looking at the word in its forms as a noun and as a verb.

The noun, 'harvest', speaks to those gifts. At a time of hardship, worry and stress the harvest reminds me of all the things for which we should be thankful. I look at this not just in terms of the produce of the land but of the friendships, connections and conversations that have helped us all deal with these peculiar days. The harvest of 2020 may well include the way we have discovered new truths, developed new skills and forged new paths. The crop we have reaped will be beneficial to our well being as individuals and that will mean we are better equipped to help in our communities.

The verb, 'to harvest', pays homage to the work we have done. To harvest is to gather in that which we have laid out. In April through to October we have all worked hard and challenged ourselves. Some will have found the fortitude to get up in the morning and go to work knowing that it puts them at risk of infection. Others will have learned the benefits of being at home and finding time to read, paint, cook, create; skills that had been side-lined as 'real life' got in the way. We have all found ways to cope with a new reality, some by unleashing a torrent of frustration and some by developing a calm inner strength that allows for reflection and determination not to fall down.

However you have approached these days, it is worth remembering that the people we are now and the way we deal with any new restrictions coming down the line is different from how we would have done things in March. The seeds we have sown, the work we have put in over the summer have borne the fruits of courage, determination and pluck that will keep us safe and sound in the weeks and months that remain in this year and into the new year when, God willing, we will be able to restore some of the familiarity of the world as we knew it.

I hope that you all continue to keep safe and keep smiling.

Dear Friends

One of the many joys of being the 'associate' at St Johns, is working alongside Steve our vicar. He works tirelessly to balance two potentially full-time jobs into each week, so I was delighted when he asked if I would like to write the Vicars letter for this month.

A few years ago, the Church growth movement identified the period that we are now in as 'The Season of Invitation'. From mid-October until Christmas the Church is usually busy with a whole array of events which we take great pleasure in inviting our local community to join in with. It usually begins with our Harvest Festival, as we say thank you to God for all his gifts which have sustained us over the year; *Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest-home!*

The Harvest is followed by All Souls. A special time as we remember those who have died, particularly over this last year, but also loved ones who we see no more but still grieve for, acknowledging the loss that we feel. Whilst originating in the fourth century, All Souls and All Saints lost some of its momentum during the Reformation but was given new significance with the Anglo-Catholic Revival of the nineteenth century; *O blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle, they in glory shine.*

In the sombre moments of grief and loss we then turn as a country to Remembrance Day, the two-minute silence to commemorate the end of fighting in the first world war in 1918, and the subsequent wars and atrocities since the end of the 'war to end all wars'. Here at St Johns there has been a very special place for remembrance as we have been helped to recall the lives of the 50 men from our own village. Last year we launched 'Echoes of War' as a local resource for reflection. Copies are still available from the Editor if you have not got a copy yet. *They shall not grow old as we who are left grow old.*

The whole cycle of the Church's year ends with the Feast of Christ the King, as we return to the Advent themes of preparation, reflection, and commitment. Preparation not just for celebrating Christmas, but also for us to be ready to welcome Christs return; *Lo, he comes with*

clouds descending, once for favoured sinners slain; God appears on earth to reign.

Of course, all of this refers to how we used to celebrate this season, pre-Covid. We must now find new ways to mark these important themes of thankfulness, dedication, remembrance, and preparation. Last week the clergy across the diocese were invited to a study day led by our new Archbishop of York, the most Revd Stephen Cottrell, who reminded us of words first spoken by another Archbishop, Desmond Tutu. 'We must be led by hope, and not driven by fear'. So in the same way that All Saints and All Souls were reimagined and celebrated afresh, so we need to think about how we reimagine this season and its invitations.

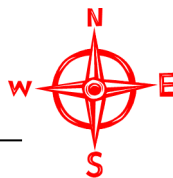
The Harvest brought a generous financial donation to the Food banks, via the Trussell Trust rather than tinned and dried goods. Further into this magazine you will find information about how we are thinking of approaching All Souls differently. Together as a community, we are all grieving for the passing of a way of life, because however much we want things to go 'back to normal', we are starting to recognise at some level that many of them never will be.

Over and above all this, there is another important theme that we must never lose sight of; *The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it*. Hope will always win over fear, and this is part of the good news that we share. The gospel comes to us ever fresh whatever circumstances as the Spirit leads us on. If there are things that strike you as a new way to mark some of this, please do speak to either Steve or I, and please continue to pray that we might meet these challenges with confidence and faith. *The Churches one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord.*

May God bless you and yours as we travel together in these new and challenging times.

Andrew

Prayer Points



Before Prayer

I weave a silence onto my lips
I weave a silence into my mind
I weave a silence within my heart
I close my ears to distractions
I close my eyes to attractions
I close my heart to temptations

Calm me O Lord as you stilled the storm
Still me O Lord, keep me from harm
Let all the tumult within me cease
Enfold me Lord in your peace .

David Adam

All Saints Day ~ 1 November

Give thanks for all the saints, in the past and in the present. Give thanks for their example and pray that we may follow in their footsteps.

Remembrance Sunday ~ 8 November

Give thanks for all who gave their lives in the two world wars that we may enjoy our freedom.
Pray for all who are the victims of war today and pray for world peace.

Advent Sunday ~ 29 November

During this period of expectant waiting and preparation for the birth of Jesus at Christmas, pray that more people will come to know the love of Jesus in their lives.

Peace

Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the Son of peace to you.

The Iona Community

ROOF APPEAL ~ What's happening!

Our target ~ £102,000

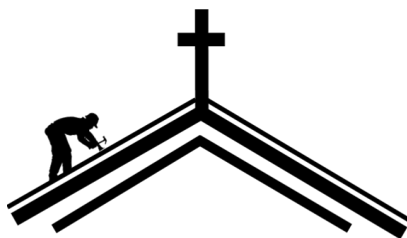
Income to 18/10/2020

Received so far

£29,148

TOTAL

£34,668 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.

A simple FUNDRAISING idea!

We can all raise money without endangering our safety whether we have already given to the appeal or not. Please take a jam jar with label from the back of church, or create your own at home, and Pop a Pound (or two!) in it each week for six months ie until next April/May.



If fifty people saved a pound a week for 26 weeks then we would have raised £1,300. However, if they were to save two pounds a week it would be double that, and there is also the possibility of gift aiding the amount saved. Simple! So please take part and help us to meet our target. *Jane Pratt*

SUPPORTING FAIRTRADE

An update on the campaign to persuade Nestlé to continue to use Fair Trade ingredients in KitKat bars highlighted in last month's magazine.

Thank you if you were one of over a quarter of a million people who signed the petition asking Nestlé to think again. MPs spoke out too, with the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Fairtrade condemning this decision strongly after grilling Nestlé representatives in Parliament.

Despite this public response, Nestlé have not changed their decision and KitKat ceased to be Fairtrade at the beginning of November.

The Fairtrade Foundation have been heartened to see so many people standing with the farmers affected by this decision.

'We believe the mass public pressure has helped bring about greater transparency over how new arrangements will work for farmers, including a greater degree of financial security for cocoa farmers under those new arrangements.'



Although pleased to see some level of greater commitment to cocoa farmers, The Fairtrade Foundation remains concerned that the new deal will still not match the same level of financial security for farmers and their organisations, and will reduce the level of control they have to invest in their communities and businesses into the future.

Making a fairer world a reality is what Fairtrade is all about. And Nestlé's decision on KitKat serves as a stark reminder of how important the power and financial security Fairtrade offers are right now.

Public reaction shows many of us want a world with a different - fairer - balance of power.

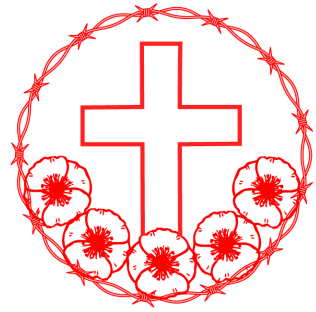
The climate crisis is already hitting some of the world's poorest people hardest, and COVID-19 continues to threaten vulnerable communities around the world.

Remember - every time you choose Fairtrade, you're choosing to be part of the solution to these huge global issues.

Outreach Group

POPPY APPEAL 2020

Look out for the Poppy Appeal again this year, but not so much via street collections. Instead, the Royal British Legion will focus on contactless donations, as a safer way forward during the pandemic.



One such method will be ‘point of sale donations’. This means that when you shop at your supermarket and reach the till or online, you may be invited to round up your total to the nearest pound to help the Poppy Appeal.

A spokesman for the Royal British Legion said: *‘The Poppy Appeal 2020 is very much still going ahead’, but that ‘the safety and wellbeing of our volunteers, staff and members is paramount.*

This means that collectors who fall into the vulnerable category have been advised ‘not to take part in activity on behalf of the Poppy Appeal that would expose them to any additional risks while coronavirus is still present.’

And yet the need is still huge: *‘Members of the Armed Forces Community are suffering significant hardship as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak and we at the Royal British Legion will do everything we possibly can to support them.’*



ALTAR FLOWERS

8 November

Jan Alexander

Worship this month

1 Nov ALL SAINTS / ALL SOULS

Readings: Revelation 7: 9-end; Matthew 5: 1-12

9.30am Zest

11.00am Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist

3.30pm All Souls service to remember loved ones ~ ***see note***
& 5pm ***(p15) re booking for this service***

8 Nov REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Readings: 1 Thess 4: 13-end; Matthew 25: 1-13

9.30am Zest

11.00am Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist

15 Nov The Second Sunday before ADVENT

Readings: Psalm 90; Matthew 25: 14-30

9.30am Zest

11.00am Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist

22 Nov CHRIST THE KING

Readings: Psalm 95: 1-7; Matthew 25: 31- end

9.30am Zest

11.00am Service of Confirmation with Bishop Toby
NB This may change due to Covid-19 restrictions

29 Nov ADVENT SUNDAY

Readings: Isaiah 64: 1-9; Mark 13: 24-37

9.30am Zest

11.00am Service of the Word followed by optional Eucharist

MID-WEEK SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

9.30am *Wednesdays: 4 / see Remembrance Day / 18 / 25*

WORSHIP NOTES

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.) will be in place, and a register will be kept of those who attend for the purposes of contact tracing.

ALL SOULS ~ 1 November

3.30pm and 5pm Families of those whose funerals have taken place recently will be invited to attend to remember those we love but have lost.

We will be running two services; one at **3.30pm and a second at 5pm**. If you wish to attend, please can you **book a place** by emailing office@stjohnmenston.org.uk or leave a message for the Parish Office on 872433. Please state which service you would like to attend and how many spaces you would like to reserve at one of these services by **midday Wednesday 28 October**.

We will automatically read out the names of those who have had a funeral at St John's since November 2018. If you would like any extra names to be read out, please get in contact via phone or email, also by **midday Wednesday 28 October**.

As usual, there will be an opportunity to thank God for the lives of those we no longer see. We may be unable to let everyone light individual candles as part of the services, but we will attempt to enable some sort of personal act of remembrance and prayer within the guidelines for Covid security. Sadly, we will not be able to provide refreshments this year.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

11am ~ Sunday 8 November

No outdoor services are possible this year because of Covid-19. Our 11am service in church will be starting slightly earlier to enable us to hold a silence at 11am. More details to follow.

Wednesday 11 November

St John's will host the village Remembrance Day Service. Due to Covid restrictions, spaces for the service will have to be reserved. To do so, please leave a message for the Parish Office on 872433 or email office@stjohnmenston.org.uk, stating your name and how many places you would like to reserve by **midday Tuesday 10 November**.

Sunday 22 November

We hope to welcome Bishop Toby to a Service of Confirmation at the 11am service.

The latest worship details, recordings of past services, prayer resources, Parish Notes and more can be found on the website. www.stjohnmenston.org.uk

SINGLE USE PLASTIC

When did you last buy a single-use plastic bag?

It seems that most of us have bought just four from our supermarket in the last year, which is a drop of 95% since the 5p charge was introduced five years ago.



The Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs reports that prior to 2015, most shoppers were buying 140 single-use bags a year.

But sadly, the coronavirus pandemic has disrupted the bigger war on plastics, with a huge rise in throwaway personal protective equipment, and a resurgence in single-use cups, cutlery, and other items.

Good news: For those who have accumulated a large number of plastic bags from supermarket on-line delivery services, some supermarkets are once again taking them back and re-funding the customer. Check out your local supermarket for their policy on this. For instance, Morrisons now refund 5p per bag (batches of 25).

Outreach Group

GREEN TIPS for NOVEMBER

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. This month's tips looks at ideas for re-cycling.



- ♦ Be pedantic about your re-cycling! Think about every item you put in the bin; should it go to landfill? Loo rolls come on cardboard tubes, sweets come in foil or paper wrappers, apple cores can be composted and most packaging can be recycled now.

Small actions on our part DO make changes.

Outreach Group

NOVEMBER ... remembering

The destruction of Coventry

German Luftwaffe bombers virtually destroyed the city of Coventry – including its medieval cathedral – 80 years ago this month, on 14 November 1940. Joseph Goebbels later used the term *coventriert* ('coventried') to describe high levels of destruction in other towns.

Coventry was targeted by 'Operation Moonlight Sonata' as an industrial city, but more than 4,300 homes were destroyed and about two-thirds of the city's buildings were damaged. There were many direct hits on the cathedral, and flames spread quickly. More than 550 people were killed and over 850 badly injured, with nearly 400 sustaining lesser injuries. There would have been more casualties, but many citizens left at night to sleep in nearby towns or villages after earlier air raids.

The cathedral was left as a ruin, still standing today as a reminder of the bombing. A new cathedral was built close alongside in the 1950s, designed by the architect Basil Spence. The Queen laid its foundation stone in 1956. It was consecrated in 1962, and Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* was composed to mark the occasion.

'Lady Chatterley's Lover' – the beginning of the permissive society?

It was 60 years ago, on 2 November 1960, that a British jury cleared Penguin Books of obscenity for publishing D H Lawrence's novel *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. This is often considered the beginning of the permissive society in Britain.

The book had been published before, though not in this country. But the law had changed with the passing of Roy Jenkins' Obscene Publications Act 1959. This made it possible for publishers to avoid conviction if the work in question could be shown to be of literary merit, despite the use of crude sexual language.

Many prominent authors gave evidence on Lawrence's behalf, and when Penguin were found 'not guilty' the book sold three and a half million copies. One defence witness was Dr John Robinson, the Bishop of Woolwich, who said that while Lawrence's view was not Christian, his intention had been to 'portray the sex relationship as something essentially sacred'.

Parish Pump News Service

If the mountain seems too big

If the mountain seems too big today,
then climb a hill instead.
If the morning brings you sadness,
it's okay to stay in bed.

If the day ahead weighs heavy
and your plans feel like a curse,
there's no shame in rearranging,
don't make yourself feel worse.

If a shower stings like needles
and a bath feels like you'll drown,
if you haven't washed your hair for days,
don't throw away your crown.

A day is not a lifetime,
a rest is not defeat;
don't think of it as failure,
just a quiet, kind retreat.

It's okay to take a moment
from an anxious, fractured mind;
the world will not stop turning,
while you get realigned.

The mountain will still be there
when you want to try again,
you climb it in your own time,
just love yourself 'til then.

Anonymous contribution



MU Prayers ~ Hope for Gender Justice

- **Equal before God**

Creator God, thank you that we are all made in your image and equally loved by you.

We pray for all to follow Christ's example of treating women with equality and respect. We pray for the dawn of a better world where justice and peace may flourish.

- **Hope for change**

Give us courage to challenge and to change, to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.

- **Hope of transformation**

We pray for transformation of our societies which often find it easier to judge the victims of violence than to solve the problems of injustice.

- **Actions of hope**

He has shown you what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. *Micah 6:8*

Knit us together as the body of Christ that we may act with one accord for the kingdom of God to prevail and fill us with new resolve to pursue actions of hope in the name of Christ.

- **United in hope**

We pray for the work of our members worldwide to combat gender injustice; for their highlighting of the issue, their petitioning of governments and their work with victims and survivors.

As a global family we embrace our mission to speak out for the vulnerable and voiceless. Help us play our part in creating a just and equal society.

- **Hope for the future**

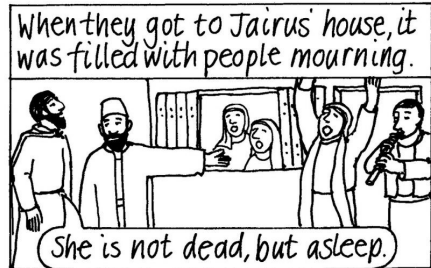
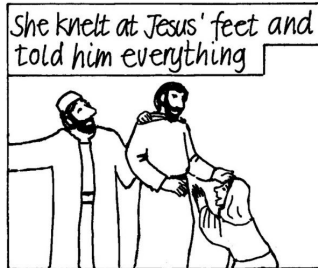
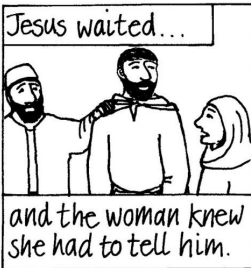
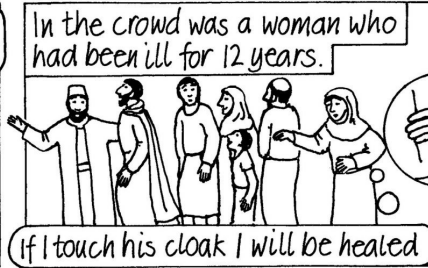
We pray for all to follow your example of treating women with equality and respect. We pray for the dawn of a better world where justice and peace may flourish.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Lk 8:40-56, Mt 9:18-26, Mk 5:21-43

Jairus, a town leader, had a 12 year old daughter who was ill and about to die. He came to Jesus and knelt at his feet...



NOTICE BOARD

THANK YOU

With sincere thanks to all our friends at St Johns for their loving words and prayerful thoughts for Tom. They have made an enormous difference during a difficult time.

With our love and prayers.

*Pat, Tom Henry,
Robin and Alex.(Shaw).*

St John's Dial-A-Service

Call 01943 666875 for a short Service of the Word. You will receive a short automated message followed by this week's recorded service. Calls are charged at your regular, local rate (ie same price it would to make a regular call).

PCC ELECTION RESULTS

Churchwardens:

Hilary Feathers
David Mercer

Parochial Church Council:

3 years: Colin Alexander
Geoff Druett
Hannah Needles
1 vacancy

2 years: *1 vacancy*

To APCM 2021: *1 vacancy*

Deanery Synod:

3 years: Marilyn Banister

ANNUAL LEAF

CLEARANCE There is a churchyard sweep session set for ***Saturday 14 November from 9.30 am onwards.*** If you are able to help for any amount of time it would be greatly appreciated.

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERAL SERVICES *We commend into the hands of Almighty God:*
22 October Christopher Marlow

Light Up St John's – Floodlight Sponsorship

5 November In memory of George and Cath Allewell

Now that the dark winter nights have arrived 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 the Parish Office to make arrangements: 872433 or office@stjohnmenston.org.uk.